



## Press Release

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### NSERC and FQRNT provide businesses with financial assistance to host graduate student researchers at metropolitan Quebec City technology park

**Quebec City, February 5 2009** – The Parc technologique du Québec métropolitain has signed an agreement with the Fonds québécois de la recherche sur la nature et les technologies (FQRNT) and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) to foster research partnerships between Quebec universities and the high-technology firms that operate in this Parc technologique du Québec.

This two-year agreement, under the Industrial Innovation Scholarships (IIS) Program, will enable businesses to host a master's or doctoral student to work on one of their R&D projects.

A total of thirteen scholarships will be awarded under this agreement: eight for master's students and five for doctoral students. The master's scholarships are valued at \$14,000 per year, with the host company contributing at least \$7,000 more. As for the doctoral scholarships, the value raises up to \$18,000 per year, with the host company contributing at least \$9,000 more. The host company pays its contribution to the university, which then disburses it to the student who has been selected for the scholarship.

The **Parc technologique du Québec métropolitain** [metropolitan Quebec City technology park] ([www.parctechno.qc.ca](http://www.parctechno.qc.ca)), which celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2008, is home to some 100 technology businesses and research centres with a total of nearly 5,000 employees. The Park's management team strives to create a distinctive, attractive environment by offering innovative, customized services to the businesses that operate there. The guiding principles of the Park's 2008-2013 strategic plan are promoting innovation, talent and sustainable development.

Established in 2001, the **Fonds québécois de la recherche sur la nature et les technologies** [Quebec fund for research on nature and technology] ([www.fqrnt.gouv.qc.ca](http://www.fqrnt.gouv.qc.ca)) is a Quebec government agency that reports to the Ministère du Développement économique, de l'Innovation et de l'Exportation [ministry for economic development, innovation, and export trade]. The Fund's mission is to promote and provide financial assistance for research and for the training of researchers, as well as to disseminate knowledge in the natural sciences, mathematics, and engineering.

**NSERC** ([www.crsng.gc.ca](http://www.crsng.gc.ca)) is a federal agency whose vision is to help make Canada a country of discoverers and innovators for the benefit of all Canadians. NSERC supports more than 26,500 university students and postdoctoral fellows in their advanced studies. It promotes discovery by funding more than 11,800 university professors every year. And NSERC helps make innovation happen by encouraging over 1,400 Canadian companies to invest and participate in university research projects.

**Source:**

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