

Major Oil and Gas Player Joins CelluForce

Applications for NCC™ at heart of the agreement

Pointe-Claire, Québec – March 26, 2015 – FPInnovations welcomed the announcement that Schlumberger, the world’s leading supplier of technology, integrated project management and information solutions for the global oil and gas industry, has decided to invest in CelluForce with a view to exploring the potential of CelluForce’s wood-derived nano-crystalline cellulose (CelluForce NCC™) for use in oil and gas well production. CelluForce, a joint venture between FPInnovations and Domtar, operates the world’s first large-scale NCC™ plant at Domtar’s pulp and paper mill in Windsor, Québec.

“FPInnovations is very pleased to welcome Schlumberger as an investor in CelluForce. This investment exemplifies our vision of creating a world where products from sustainable forests contribute to every aspect of daily life, which, of course, includes the oil and gas sector”, said Pierre Lapointe, President and CEO of FPInnovations. “Thanks to the vision and foresight of Natural Resources Canada and the Ministère de l’Énergie et des Ressources naturelles du Québec, the research and development necessary to bring NCC™ production to the demonstration plant phase was made possible. This is an excellent example of how publically funded research and pilot plants can lead to new economic opportunities and international investment in Canada.”

The first small-scale NCC™ pilot plant was built and began operation in 2006 at FPInnovations’ laboratory in Montréal, Québec. Supported in part by Natural Resources Canada and the Ministère de l’Énergie et des Ressources naturelles du Québec and the Ministère du Développement économique, de l’Innovation et de l’Exportation, the pilot plant operation led to a scalable NCC™ production process and placed Canada in the pole position of the global race towards commercial NCC™ manufacture. Based on the success of the small-scale pilot plant, CelluForce was created which, in 2011, led to the construction of a demonstration plant at Domtar’s mill in Windsor, Québec, having a production capacity of 1000 kg of NCC™ per day. Schlumberger’s current investment will ensure that research towards NCC™ applications will continue, resulting in game-changing applications that will help improve Canada’s competitiveness.

NanoCrystalline Cellulose (CelluForce NCC™) also referred to as Cellulose Nanocrystals (CNC), is a recyclable, nontoxic, and renewable nanomaterial extracted from trees. NCC™ is a fundamental building block of trees that can be extracted from the forest biomass and has unique properties that offer a wide range of potential applications. Measured in units as small as nanometres, these tiny structures have strength properties comparable to steel and will have uses in a variety of industrial sectors.

Previous funding by both federal and provincial governments has supported FPInnovations' ground-breaking scientific research resulting in landmark projects and innovative technologies, such as:

- Building the world's first cellulose filament demonstration plant in Trois-Rivières, Québec, in collaboration with Kruger Biomaterials;
- Research and production of Cross-Laminated Timber (CLT) Handbook to support Structurlam Products LP and Nordic Engineered Wood, CLT manufacturers in British Columbia and Québec respectively;
- Implementing a commercial-scale lignin recovery process in Hinton, Alberta, in collaboration with West Fraser;
- Construction of a lignin extraction plant in Thunder Bay, Ontario in collaboration with Resolute Forest Products.

Associated Links

- To learn more about CelluForce: www.celluforce.com
- To find out more about our research programs, please visit: www.fpinnovations.ca and follow us on Twitter @FPInnovations and LinkedIn.

About FPInnovations

FPInnovations is a not-for-profit world-leading R&D institute that specializes in the creation of scientific solutions in support of the Canadian forest sector's global competitiveness and responds to the priority needs of its industry members and government partners. It is ideally positioned to perform research, innovate, and deliver state-of-the-art solutions for every area of the sector's value chain, from forest operations to consumer and industrial products. FPInnovations' staff numbers more than 525. Its R&D laboratories are located in Québec City, Montréal and Vancouver, and it has technology transfer offices across Canada. For more information about FPInnovations, visit: www.fpinnovations.ca.

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