

## **FPInnovations launches *FPInnovations Associates***

### **New service for small & medium enterprises (SMEs) in Secondary Wood Products Manufacturing sector**

**Pointe-Claire, Quebec – November 5, 2015** – FPInnovations is pleased to announce the launch of *FPInnovations Associates*, a new service for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the Secondary Wood Products Manufacturing sector across Canada, which offers a cost-effective alternative to partnering with FPInnovations. This unique and comprehensive service aims to support the sector’s competitiveness by providing businesses with direct access to one-stop, specialized help, and a customized Web platform.

FPInnovations carefully studied the needs of SMEs and created *FPInnovations Associates* to open up a world for SMEs looking to benefit from a wide range of expertise and resources tailored to their needs.

With focused access to FPInnovations’ Secondary Wood Products Manufacturing Program, *FPInnovations Associates* is specifically designed to meet the distinct needs of SMEs, including technical support, training, market intelligence, networking, access to free workshops and webinars, online reports and publications, funding information, performance comparison tools, and specialized help with operation-related issues. By joining *FPInnovations Associates*, participating companies gain fast, affordable access to valuable resources that will help enhance business performance.

#### **Quotes**

*“Small and medium enterprises in the wood products sector are an important economic driver for Canada’s forest industry. These businesses account for the vast majority of private job creation in the sector, but they often face challenges in gaining access to the support they need. FPInnovations is proud to offer a practical and affordable one-stop solution that will enable SMEs to overcome the obstacles involved in finding help and resolving operational issues in a timely manner. By creating a new way for SMEs to partner with us, FPInnovations Associates will expand our relationship with these businesses to deliver greater impact for the entire sector.”*

- Pierre Lapointe, President and Chief Executive Officer, FPInnovations

## Quick Facts

- An annual subscription fee of \$500 per company offers direct access to Industry Advisors, networking events, training, performance benchmarking, strategic intelligence, technical articles, funding information, industry links, webinars and workshops, newsletter and online reports and publications.
- *FPIInnovations Associates* (<http://associates.fpinnovations.ca>) is open to all businesses in the Secondary Wood Products Manufacturing sector with less than 500 employees.
- The program includes access to FPIInnovations' Secondary Wood Products Manufacturing Program research and development.
- The wood products sector includes close to 9,000 companies. Products include kitchen cabinets, doors and windows, furniture, millwork, flooring engineered wood and others.
- More than 90% of companies in the sector are SMEs – 80% of these SMEs have fewer than 10 employees.
- In 2012, small and medium-sized companies in the sector accounted, respectively, for 77.7% and 9.8% of private job creation (Source: Statistics Canada *Labour Force Survey*, 2012).

## Associated Links

- *FPIInnovations Associates*: <http://associates.fpinnovations.ca>
- FPIInnovations' Secondary Wood Products Manufacturing Program: <https://fpinnovations.ca/ResearchProgram/Pages/research-program-secondary-wood-products-manufacturing.aspx>

## About FPIInnovations

FPIInnovations is a not-for-profit world leader 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. FPIInnovations' 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 FPIInnovations, visit: [www.fpinnovations.ca](http://www.fpinnovations.ca).

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