

# Science and Technology Collaboration University and Business

**THE OPPORTUNITY** Saint Mary's University has developed an initiative, with support from the National Research Council Industrial Research Assistance Program (NRC-IRAP), to help Canadian small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) – commercial enterprises with less than 500 employees. This initiative will help firms to strengthen their competitiveness and enhance their growth through innovation by providing easy access to scientific and technical information and expertise. The aim is to provide assistance to address such items as:

- new product development
- resource allocation/optimization
- production process improvement
- removal of product performance limitation
- product or production cost reduction
- reliability/quality improvements
- enhanced product functionality
- environmental technology issues

**INITIATING THE PROCESS** The company must complete the form, *Request for Science and Technology Assistance*, clearly stating the challenge and desired outcome and send it to Saint Mary's University, Innovation and Community Engagement (The Office) via fax (902) 496-8772 or email [Kevin.Buchan@smu.ca](mailto:Kevin.Buchan@smu.ca). If you have any questions, contact the program manager via telephone at (902) 491-6297.

**THE PROCESS** The Office will identify university researcher(s) with expertise who are willing to address the company's challenges. There will be no cost to the company. The Office will facilitate the co-ordination of the interaction between the firm and researcher(s) and provide on-going support throughout the process. The maximum time for a researcher to be allocated to a project is three days; over a period of several weeks. If there is a clear need for additional assistance, the firm will be referred to project-based support programs such as NRC-IRAP and the Atlantic Canada Opportunity Agency.

**THE OUTCOME** The University researcher(s) will produce a confidential report that will become the property of the company and contain items such as:

- a detailed analysis of the problem
- copies of relevant research and industry papers
- one or more proposed solutions
- a proposed research project description
- potential approaches to a solution
- existing technology details
- further avenues to research

Office Use Only  
Project Number: \_\_\_\_\_

# Request for Science & Technology Assistance

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Are you currently working with ACOA or NRC-IRAP on this problem?  Yes  No      Who is your contact? \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

<b>REQUEST</b>	<i>Title:</i> _____
<i>Description:</i>	

**Sector Focus (select one):**

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ocean Technology                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Biotechnology | <input type="checkbox"/> Materials Science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Information and Communication Technology | <input type="checkbox"/> Energy        | <input type="checkbox"/> Other             |

<b>DESIRED OUTCOME(S)</b>
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**By signing this agreement, the parties agree that the contents of this form will be kept confidential but the company acknowledges that the information contained herein may be used and disclosed internally by Saint Mary's University as necessary to locate the appropriate university researcher(s) to assist the company with the identified issue(s), or disclosed as required by NRC-IRAP or by law.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Authorized Company Representative*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Innovation and Community Engagement*

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_