



Media Release

September 29, 2005

YORKbiotech showcases life sciences industry

MARKHAM – YORKbiotech today showcases York Region’s life sciences industry with two events – a Bio Bus Tour from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. for teachers and students from York Region District School Board, and a Biotech Networking event from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. for industry participants at the Town of Markham Civic Centre.

“The biotech sector in York Region has seen strong labour force growth as well as a host of new company investments,” said Stan Shapson, Vice-President, Research and Innovation, York University. “We focus on convergence of IT with biotechnologies, pharmaceuticals, and medical and assistive devices.”

The Bio Bus Tour will enable students to see biotechnology and life science in action at several research labs and educational institutions across York Region.

“At York Region, our economic strategy is focused on taking the steps that are necessary to help ensure that the prosperity we achieve today can be sustained tomorrow for our children and for our children’s children,” said York Regional Chair and CEO Bill Fisch. “We aim to ensure York Region is renowned for its advanced technology, innovative businesses, supportive business infrastructure and highly skilled resident workforce.”

The Biotech Networking event will highlight presentations and insights from leaders in the life sciences industry, government, education and YORKbiotech itself, regarding the opportunities in York Region and the important role biotechnology will play in delivering quality healthcare for Canadians.

“York Region and the Town of Markham are in the heart of one of North America’s most dynamic technology-growth complexes,” said Town of Markham Mayor Don Cousens. “The positive business climate that we offer here encourages new business investment and leads to growth and diversity of our business enterprises.”

More than 120 companies in York Region are involved in producing medical devices, biopharma and medical assistive devices. In addition, many companies in the information and communications technology, digital media, software and manufacturing sectors also contribute to the Region’s biotechnology cluster.

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Media Advisory

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YORKbiotech ImaGENEation Celebration

NEWMARKET- In celebration of National Biotech Week (September 26th -30th), this one-day program will help support, educate and promote biotechnology across York Region. Program highlights include day-time *bio bus* tours for teachers and students from the York Region District School Board to various research laboratories and educational facilities showing biotechnology and life science in action.

The evening biotech networking reception, open to the public, includes a series of guest speakers focussing on the vital role biotechnology plays in delivering quality healthcare to residents and the growth potential for businesses and young people in this exciting and innovative field.

WHEN: Thursday, September 29th
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (Bio Bus Tours)
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. (Civic Information and Networking Reception)

WHERE: Town of Markham Civic Centre
Council Chambers and Lower Atrium
101 Town Centre Blvd. (NW corner of Hwy 7 and Warden)
Markham, Ontario

SPEAKERS: Bill Fisch, Regional Chair and CEO, York Region
Don Cousens, Mayor, Town of Markham
Stan Shapson, Vice President, Research and Innovation, York University
Dan Lynch, Industrial Technology Advisor, Industrial Research Assistance Program, National Research Council
John Wilms, Sales Executive, IBM Health Care & Life Sciences
Mark Lievonen, President, Sanofi Pasteur Ltd.
John Soloninka, President, Soloninka & Associates

BACKGROUND: YORKbiotech is a regional innovation network for biotechnology-related industries at the centre of the Greater Toronto Area. The mission of YORKbiotech is to act as a catalyst, harnessing the wealth of intellectual and technical resources to promote economic success and growth of the biotechnology and related industries as a key component of regional economic development.

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“YORKbiotech’s Regional Innovation Network has become a vital tool for building effective partnerships in the biotech industry,” said Industrial Technology Advisor Dan Lynch of the National Research Council's Industrial Research Assistance Program. “It enables companies to be aware of strategic opportunities that may call on them to adapt, diversify and expand, all of which are part of the innovation process and necessary steps if they are to become more productive and globally competitive.”

YORKbiotech hosts these events in cooperation with the Regional Municipality of York, the Town of Markham and the York Region District School Board as part of a provincial and national week-long biotech event called *Celebrate IMAGENATION*.

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For more information on YORKbiotech, please visit www.yorkbiotech.ca

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