



Canada's National Design Network® awarded \$7M from CFI to support advanced technology design and prototyping

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The Canada Foundation for Innovation has awarded \$7 million over three years to Canada's National Design Network, to help Canadian academic researchers and industry explore new ideas leading to the next generation of advanced technologies.

Awarded under CFI's Major Scientific Initiatives program, the funding is held by Queen's University and managed by CMC, and will be used to secure and support the tools and technologies needed by Canada's NDN for developing the smart technologies, materials and manufacturing processes for the "internet of everything" world.

Future generations of electronic systems pose significant challenges in terms of size, energy consumption and performance that require profoundly different manufacturing materials and processes, says Ian McWalter, President & CEO of CMC Microsystems, which manages Canada's NDN.

"The work of CMC, through this MSI funding, is critical for the development of the coming wave of smart technologies, and for training the highly skilled individuals needed to conceive and create them," he says.

CMC is currently seeking a funding commitment from the federal government to complement these MSI resources to optimally support the academic and industrial participants in this pan-Canadian network, says Dan Gale, Vice-President and Chief Technology Officer of CMC Microsystems.

"There are significant needs and opportunities our stakeholders need to address in their leading-edge R&D projects in order to develop new product technologies for the marketplace, and to create talent for Canada. This funding makes it possible for us, as a national research facility, to do an even better job of helping to advance innovation in Canada."

CFI funding will be used to:

- Optimize and manage a nationally accessible, cloud-based, cybersecure and industrially relevant design environments;
- Continue to develop new operational models leading to more effective use of highly advanced university labs specializing in making and testing new technologies;
- Continue to build partnerships and industrial collaborations leading to new technology manufacturing processes and faster commercialization of new technologies.



Projected benefits of these activities include new industrial processes and commercial products, new companies and next-generation innovators. The long-term goal, says Dr. McWalter, is to foster Canadian leadership in advanced technology manufacturing.

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About Canada's National Design Network and CMC Microsystems

CMC Microsystems works with researchers and industry across Canada's National Design Network (NDN), enabling excellent research by providing world-class infrastructure and expertise for designing, prototyping and manufacturing innovations in microsystems and nanotechnologies. CMC provides a path to commercialization of related technologies, and enables the development and sharing of new tools, methodologies and processes to make researchers and industry more productive.

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