



January 30, 2006

Calgary to host international Ag Biotech Conference in 2007

Opportunity for Alberta to showcase world-class agricultural biotech industry

Edmonton... Alberta will welcome delegates from around the world in September 2007 when Calgary hosts the International AgBiotech Conference. The four-day event will offer participants the opportunity to exchange ideas and hear from a distinguished line up of internationally-acclaimed speakers as they address issues, options and challenges being met by the global biotechnology industry.

"This top caliber international event will highlight Alberta and Canada's leadership role in the world of agricultural biotechnology," said Minister of Innovation and Science Victor Doerksen. "Long known for being a leader in agriculture and energy, Alberta is also a centre for knowledge industries. Alberta is the logical choice to host this important conference."

The conference will combine the business of science with the latest discoveries and trends in research and technology development, and give the research and business communities opportunities to network and exchange ideas. Sessions on the challenges and opportunities experienced in Australia, Europe, the United States, China and Canada will bring an international perspective to the discussions.

Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development Doug Horner said the conference will welcome world-renowned scientists, investors, industry leaders and policy makers to Alberta. "We're discovering remarkable growth opportunities in agricultural biotechnology and this conference offers a tremendous platform to showcase our growing life sciences industries."

"Alberta has the opportunity to be a leader in the agricultural biotechnology and bioproducts industries," said BioAlberta Chairman Mark Redmond. "As a world class conference, ABIC 2007 is a must-attend event for the industry and those interested in it."

The conference will run from September 23 to 26, 2007, at the TELUS Convention Centre in downtown Calgary. It will be the first time Alberta has hosted the event, which is the largest agricultural biotech conference in the world.

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Backgrounder: Conference steering committee membership

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Backgrounder

ABIC Steering Committee

Art Froehlich - Co-Chair

Mr. Froehlich is the Managing Partner, AdFarm - a marketing and communications firm specializing in agriculture. He is also the Industry Co-Chair of the Alberta Agricultural Research Institute and is a director with the Alberta Life Sciences Institute.

Rick Smith - Co-Chair

Mr. Smith is the past President of Dow Agrosciences Canada Inc. - a research based, agricultural sciences company with diverse product portfolio including weed, insect and disease management for agricultural/horticultural crops and products for forestry and industrial vegetation management. They have also made significant investments in developing a plant genetics and biotechnology platform in canola and corn. Mr. Smith is a director with BioProducts Alberta, BioAlberta and AVAC.

Dr. Mark Redmond

Dr. Redmond is the President and CEO of Ceapro - a formulating and processing company specializing in production of active ingredients, veterinary therapeutics, and diabetes diagnostics. Dr. Redmond is also the Chair of BioAlberta and is a director with the Alberta Agricultural Research Institute.

Dr. Anna Lavelle

Dr. Lavelle is the President of AusBiotech in Australia. She is currently on the organizing committee for ABIC 2006 which will be held in Melbourne, Australia.

Dr. Peter Welters

Dr. Welters is the CEO of Phytowelt, a biotechnology and molecular biology company located in Nettetal, Germany. He was on the organizing committee for ABIC 2004, held in Cologne, Germany.

Darcy Fitzgerald

Mr. Fitzgerald is the General Manager of the Alberta Livestock Industry Development Fund (ALIDF) - a company initiated in 2001 to support research and development projects that contribute to an environmentally and socially responsive livestock industry in Alberta.

George Yeaman

Mr. Yeaman is a director with the Alberta Crop Industry Development Fund (ACIDF) - a company initiated in 2001 to support crop related research and development initiatives for Alberta.

Matthew Machielse

Mr. Machielse is the Director for the BioIndustrial Technical Division in the Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Development (AAFRD) with the Alberta Provincial Government.

Freda Molenkamp

Ms. Molenkamp is the Director for Production and Food and the Leader of Programs and Partnerships with the Alberta Agricultural Research Institute (AARI).

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