



For Immediate Release

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**AVAC Ltd. , together with
Alberta Innovates Bio Solutions and BioAlberta
welcome ABIC 2013 to Calgary, Alberta, Canada**

Saskatoon, SK: The Chairman of the board of the ABIC Foundation, Mr. Jerome Konecsni, announces the ABIC 2013 conference will be held in Calgary, Alberta and is co-hosted by AVAC Ltd., Alberta Innovates Bio Solutions and BioAlberta. The conference will take place from September 15 – 18, 2013.

Konecsni stated “At its very core, the ABIC Foundation supports the development of agricultural biotechnology as a major force in developing, creating and ensuring a sustainable planet. The ABIC conferences address issues that include global food security and continuing regulatory hurdles and strives to strengthen the links between the business and research communities.”

“Integral to the success of our regional agricultural industry is the strength of its linkages internationally to the leading edge innovations in agricultural biotechnology,” said Ross Bricker, President and CEO, AVAC Ltd. “The 2013 Conference will see technology and industry leaders from across the world come together in one place in Calgary.”

Bringing the Agricultural Biotechnology International Conference to Alberta in 2013 is recognition of our province’s dynamic life sciences community, internationally recognized talent and world-class infrastructure,” said Dr. Stan Blade, Chief Executive Officer, Alberta Innovates Bio Solutions. “The knowledge and connections gained at the conference may lead to new collaborative projects focused on solving some of the world’s biggest challenges in agriculture and food security.”

“As a world class conference, this is a must-attend event for the industry and those interested in it,” said Ryan Radke, President, BioAlberta. “It will bring world-renowned scientists, investors, industry leaders and policy makers to Alberta. The conference will also provide a tremendous opportunity to showcase Alberta’s incredible life sciences industry.”

As part of the commitment to internationalization and development of the third world, ABIC financially supports a travel bursary for researchers from developing countries to attend an ABIC conference. Conferences move around the globe, offering the opportunity to explore, discuss and understand many global challenges and triumphs facing agricultural biotechnology. The 2011 conference will be in Johannesburg, South Africa and in Rotorua, New Zealand in 2012.

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The ABIC Foundation and the Agricultural Biotechnology International Center (ABIC) are located in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. ABIC Foundation's goal is to ensure ongoing opportunities for continuous learning and networking within the agbiotech community. The Foundation performs advisory, promotional and supportive functions for conferences and strives to position the conference at the forefront of agbiotech innovation. The ABIC Foundation's mission is dedicated to linking the global science, business, government and development communities to enable the application of sustainable agricultural biotechnologies for the good of all. Its focus for the future lies in the pursuit of three interrelated and interdependent strategic thrusts of Connecting People, Building Capacity and Enabling Progress through Commercialization.

AVAC Ltd is an Alberta-based investment company that invests in promising early-stage value-added Alberta businesses in the agri-business, ICT, life sciences, and other industrial technology sectors, and early-stage venture capital funds. Since inception, AVAC has been an investor in over 115 early-stage commercial businesses based in Alberta, over 50 agricultural research projects and programs, and is an indirect investor in three national venture capital funds. AVAC has invested over \$188 million with its portfolio companies reporting in excess of \$688 million in investment related sales to date. In 2010, AVAC's current portfolio of 56 companies also reported an annual payroll of \$63 million.

Alberta Innovates Bio Solutions (AI Bio) is a publicly funded board-governed corporation that works with partners to identify, coordinate and fund research projects designed to help solve industry challenges with solutions that deliver social, economic and environmental benefits. Through this investment in science and innovation, AI Bio aims to help create new technologies and products that will grow Alberta's agriculture, forest, and healthy food sectors.

BioAlberta is the central voice and organizing hub for life science industries in Alberta. It is a private, not-for-profit industry association, representing Alberta's growing life science sector. We provide attentive, proactive and timely services and programs to over 130 member organizations. Whether it's cost savings of a purchasing program, a marketing campaign, a publication, an educational session, or an advocacy project, we expand our member companies' dollars and reach.