

Abrafab Inc. receives \$319,500 in Government of Canada funding to improve competitiveness

Drummondville, Quebec, September 21, 2009 – The Honourable Denis Lebel, Minister of State for Canada Economic Development, today announced the awarding of \$319,500 in repayable funding to Abrafab Inc. through the *Innovation Support* component of the *Business and Regional Growth* program. The funding will enable the firm to boost its productivity through the automation of innovative processes awaiting patenting, improve its products and reduce its production costs. This project will generate an investment of \$955,000 and create six new skilled jobs in Drummondville.

Abrafab Inc. will design and develop three pieces of equipment to manufacture quick change abrasive discs by integrating innovative processes resulting from its research and development activities. The company is also moving forward on its strategy to commercialize its products in the United States and three European countries as well as to implement a lean production process (VAP – Value-Added Production) to optimize plant space. As a result, Abrafab will be able to increase its profitability and pursue its development.

“This dynamic firm stands apart from its competitors by offering high value-added niche products that give its clients a distinct advantage. Our country can count on many SMEs that, like Abrafab Inc., are setting their sights on innovation and leading-edge technology to stay ahead of the curve. That is why the Government of Canada has introduced new tax breaks totalling \$60 billion, over five years, to help them better equip themselves and capitalize on lucrative opportunities,” said the Minister of State.

Abrafab Inc. develops, manufactures and markets specialized products made of coated abrasives for high-precision finishing, intended primarily for the aerospace industry.

By improving its competitiveness, Abrafab Inc. will be well positioned to compete in the international marketplace and penetrate new markets. This will enable it to increase its sales significantly by exporting high-quality products with competitive prices and quick manufacturing and delivery times.

The *Business and Regional Growth* program helps enterprises become more competitive and engage in more innovation to facilitate their sustainable development. Its *Innovation Support* component helps enterprises improve their management of new product development and supports their efforts to commercialize these innovations.

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Sources:

Lyne Montpellier
Communications
Canada Economic Development
Tel.: 819-371-5182 or 800-567-8637
E-mail: lyne.montpellier@dec-qed.gc.ca

Simon Bachand
Press Secretary
Office of the Honourable Denis Lebel
Canada Economic Development
Cell.: 613-996-6236
E-mail: simon.bachand@dec-qed.gc.ca

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