

Algonquin College Celebrates Photonics with Official Launch of Bachelor's Degree Program

Ottawa, Ont., Feb. 6, 2006 –Algonquin College celebrated the successful conclusion of Phase I of Algonquin's Photonics Education and Training (PET) Project and the official launch of Phase II, the Bachelor of Applied Technology – Photonics Program, at an event attended by business and industry leaders and government officials.

Dr. Adam Chowaniec, Chairman of the Board of Tundra Semiconductor Corporation and Chair of the Ontario Research and Innovation Council, was the keynote speaker at the event. His speech focused on the role of science and technology in the future of Canada.

Phase I of the PET Project, concluded in June 2005, was a joint project between Ontario Centres of Excellence via its Centre for Photonics (previously Photonics Research Ontario), Algonquin College and Niagara College. This project was designed to provide skilled personnel and photonics specialists to the rapidly growing photonics industry and help give Ontario a competitive edge in the growing global photonics industry.

"The PET program and the new 4-year Bachelor of Applied Technology were created to meet the needs of Ontario's photonics industry. The PET program has increased the number of photonics-enabled people in Ontario by more than 1,000. There are currently 157 students enrolled in these new photonics programs compared to zero in 2000 which is a good measure of the success of the PET and PAL projects," says Dr. Gerard Lynch, Managing Director, Centre for Photonics, Ontario Centres of Excellence Inc. "OCE is committed to the training of highly-qualified personnel who are a vital component of innovation-based economic growth in Ontario. We are proud to have partners such as Algonquin College who help us deliver on this commitment."

Following the success of the PET project, Photonics Research Ontario, Algonquin College and Niagara College started working on The PAL Project (Photonics Advanced Learning). The objective of this project was to allow the colleges to offer a Bachelor's degree in Photonics. The two colleges were given permission by the Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities to offer a 4-year Bachelor of Applied Technology in Photonics.

"Algonquin College is proud to offer leading-edge programs through the support of business and industry partners such as Nortel*," says Raymonde Hanson, Vice President Academic and Acting President, Algonquin College. "The high-tech sector is rebounding and Algonquin College is well positioned with leading-edge programs and services to support the rapidly-changing industry with job-ready graduates."

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The application was supported by a \$3-million donation from multiple industry partners while \$2.66 million in funding was awarded from the Ministry of Enterprise, Opportunity and Innovation (now called Ministry of Economic Development and Trade) over four years to establish this new program at Algonquin and Niagara Colleges.

Algonquin College began offering a three-year diploma as well as Continuing Education courses and customized training in Photonics in September 2001. The PET Project was supported by The Strategic Skills Investment Initiative of the Ontario Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, and by industry partners.

“Algonquin College’s School of Advanced Technology continues to prepare graduates for the workforce of the 21st century,” says Morris Uremovich, Executive Dean, Faculty of Technology and Trades, Algonquin College. “The PET Project and the Bachelor of Applied Technology – Photonics Program are both solid examples of how the College offers the most relevant and up-to-date level of Photonics education and training.”

The Bachelor of Applied Technology – Photonics Program began in Fall 2004, with an emphasis on biophotonics and telecommunications at Algonquin College and on Manufacturing at Niagara College. The Bachelor of Applied Technology–Photonics Program has an advisory committee comprised of Photonics industry leaders and experts. The state-of-the-art learning facilities, combined with the three mandatory co-op terms, give the students valuable industry experience for today’s job market.

About Algonquin College:

Algonquin College of Applied Arts and Technology is located in the Nation’s Capital and the Ottawa Valley and is the second-largest college in Ontario. Algonquin is the leader in the integration of technology into the learning landscape. Algonquin College has a diverse population of 15,000 full-time students and 40,000 part-time registrations in more than 140 programs and is committed to student success.

About Ontario Centres of Excellence Inc.:

OCE Inc. is a not-for-profit corporation that delivers the Ontario Centres of Excellence program, which was established by the Ontario Government in 1987 to support research excellence. OCE Inc. fosters innovation and supports the commercialization of industry and academic research collaborations in specific technologies across a range of market sectors including communications and information technology, environmental sciences, photonics, energy, and materials and manufacturing. OCE Inc. is a crucial link in Ontario’s innovation cycle - providing a catalyst for ideas to evolve from the lab to the marketplace. For more information, visit www.oce-ontario.org.

*Nortel is a trademark of Nortel Networks.

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Bachelor of Applied Technology – Photonics Program

Labs Backgrounder

Opto-Photonics Lab Room T129

Equipment:

Two Nortel METRO Units
Three Nortel Long Haul Units
24 PCs, Smart Technology Display
4 Servers (IBM, UNIX Stations)

How this lab will enhance learning for students:

The students will use the equipment to configure, implement, and manage SONET/SDH local and wide area optical networks using the latest technology of sophisticated equipments. (e.g. Optical Long-Haul and OPTera Metro products/3000 series.)

The generic PC portion of the lab has “Smart Lectern” capabilities to ensure that students are locked into the professor’s lesson.

Image Processing and Machine Vision Lab Room T129

Equipment:

Digital Cameras
Frame grabbers
Image Processing (MATLAB) SW

How this lab will enhance learning for students:

This equipment allows for manufacturing or related processing based on the feedback and feed-forward capabilities of machine visioning systems.

Fibre Optics Lab Room T123

Equipment:

Newport Fiber Optic Kits
Optical Tables
EMF Microscopes
Optical Fiber splicers, polishers, and connectors testing systems
Optical Spectrum Analyzer
SWS 1500 Testing System

How this lab will enhance learning for students:

This equipment allows the students to discover the detailed characteristics of fiber optic cable, connectors and components to allow for precise installation, testing, verification and design of the next generation of products. The equipment represents the leading edge in this technology.

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Backgrounder - 2**Optics Lab Room T332****Equipment:**

Newport Optics Kits
Optical Tables
EMF microscopes
Spectrometers

How this lab will enhance learning for students:

Students engage in the study of imaging and spectroscopy. They determine the material make-up of components based on the colour of its reflected light. This imaging capability has far-reaching outcomes as they relate to the health and security industries.

Laser Lab Room T329**Equipment:**

CO2 Lasers
Nitrogen Laser
Argon Ion Laser
Melles Griot Laser Kits
Optical Tables
SWS 1500 Testing system
Optical Spectrum Analyzer

How this lab will enhance learning for students:

Students learn to use, troubleshoot, design and build lasers. There are numerous low powered lasers and 13 high powered lasers used for welding, surgery, and holography. Lasers can be focused through objects to allow for the non-invasive surgeries such as eye and tumour eradication.

Biophotonics Lab Room T329**Equipment:**

Confocal Microscope (3D microscope)
DNA Scopes
EMF Microscopes

How this lab will enhance learning for students:

This equipment allows for 3 dimensional microscopic views and includes a DNA Scope. These optical scopes are integral parts in the biotechnical field and will ensure that our graduates are able to compete in the hi-tech life sciences sector.

Simulation Centre for Health Studies - Phase II Room A134

How this lab will enhance learning for students: This is the first fully-equipped Operating Room Suite and Critical Care/Trauma unit in an educational facility in Canada, allowing Algonquin College faculty to recreate clinical environments providing opportunity for inter-professional practice, such as Nurses, Physicians, Respiratory Therapists and Paramedics.

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Using high-fidelity patient simulators such as SimMan and SimBaby students are able to practice essential psychomotor and decision-making skills and build confidence in a safe environment prior to entering clinical practice.

All Nursing programs will benefit from this facility, as well as the Respiratory Therapy and Paramedic Programs. The Post-Diploma Critical Care, Operating Room and Emergency Nursing Programs will also make use of this facility.

Potential new program development includes anaesthesia assistant, cardiac diagnostics and polysomnography.

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