

DATE: June 9, 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

District of Mission and SRCTec Welcome \$30,000 in Provincial Funding to Support the Creation of a Regional Tech Sector Development Plan

Mission, B.C. – The Sumas Regional Consortium for High Tech (SRCTec) and the District of Mission welcome \$30,000 in provincial funding to support the development of a strategic plan to grow the tech sector across the region, including a framework for skilled technical training and education.

Presented by MLA Simon Gibson, the funding will allow the Municipality and SRCTec to develop a strategy to support the continued rapid growth of the tech sector in Mission.

The tech sector in Mission has seen exponential growth in recent years and the creation of the fastest growing technology hub in the lower mainland. The partnership between SRCTec and the Municipality has led to co-locating SRCTec's Technology Centre of Excellence with Mission's Economic Development Office, creating a central point of contact for established tech businesses and entrepreneurs looking to realize the benefits of locating in Mission.

Stacey Crawford, Director of Economic Development with the District of Mission says, "We are pleased to be able to undertake these important projects and thank MLA Gibson and the Provincial Government for this funding. A tech strategy of the connectivity needs of the sector in Mission will help build on the considerable momentum we've created in partnering with SRCTec."

SRCTec chairman and interim CEO Raymond Szabada adds, "We've known for a long time that Mission offers a prime location for start-ups and established tech companies. With this funding and the continued support of the Provincial Government and the Municipality we're building an industry that will contribute to Mission's profile."

SRCTec also operates a very successful technology venture accelerator program, having graduated over 30 new technology businesses from the Technology Centre of Excellence (TCE) in downtown Mission over the past 15 months.

Together, the District of Mission and SRCTec have launched the Tech Starts Here campaign, attracting technology businesses and entrepreneurs to Mission.

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About the District of Mission: Mission, BC is located on the beautiful northern bank of the Fraser River. The only municipality in the Fraser Valley Regional District with rapid transit to Vancouver through the West Coast Express, it is home to a burgeoning technology sector as professionals and entrepreneurs realize the benefits of reduced costs of doing business, lower costs of living, easy access to gorgeous coastal lakes and mountains as well as the US Border and core transportation corridors. Find out more at <http://www.mission.ca>

About SRCTec: The Sumas Regional Consortium for High Tech (SRCTec) is a not-for-profit organization governed by a select group of technology executives, and a coalition of local government, industry partners and high education institutions interested in attracting tech based investment into the Region. Based in Mission, BC, SRCTec operates a Technology Centre of Excellence, and two thriving venture accelerator programs having graduated over 30 new technology businesses across big data, mobile, manufacturing, augmented reality, and the agriculture-tech industries. Find more information at <http://srctec.org>

Graduates include:

My Green Space – A master gardener for your pocket, My Green Space is an app helping anyone grow their own food with confidence. <http://www.mygreenspace.co/>

Advanced Intelligent Systems Inc. – Using robotics to drive innovative systems increasing performance and productivity, and simplifying complex manufacturing processes. <http://ai-systems.ca/>

CEA Innovations – CEA Innovations offers some of the most advanced technology in robotics and mechatronics in North America, working with one of Canada's best robotics teams at Simon Fraser University. <https://ceai.ca/>

Smartsettle – Smartsettle is changing the way the world negotiates with the world's most advanced negotiation system. <http://www.smartsettle.com/>

Watergenics Inc – Watergenics holds the exclusive worldwide license to the patent-pending Hybrid Atmospheric Water Generator invented in the Laboratory for Alternative Energy Conversion at SFU. <http://watergenicssolutions.com/>

Greenhouse Games - Develops 'city builders' app formats for the mobile & tablet mass market on a global level.

TechMist – Techmist is an effective disinfection system to help control problems such as pine beetles, West Nile and H5N5 virus control. <http://www.techmist.com>

Air Phaser - Air Phaser's non-thermal plasma technology-based system to solve indoor pollution problems. <http://www.airphaser.com>

Canadian Agri-Char - Canadian AgriChar, is a Canadian based company located in British Columbia whose main focus is the manufacture and distribution of "biochar" for use in soil remediation and growth enhancement. <http://www.canadianagruchar.ca>

GrowZorb - Precision growing materials. We are proud to offer the world's first commercially viable, food safe, polyurethane hydroponic growing medium. <http://www.growzorb.com>

Lumex Instruments - We work for those who are engaged in unraveling the mysteries of smallest differences in chemical composition. For them, we develop analytical procedures and design new original instruments. <http://www.lumexinstruments.com>

Nova BioRubber - Production of natural rubber and latex from rubber-bearing plants in North America to satisfy global demand and to solve latex allergy. <http://novabiorubber.com>