

Consortium gets R&D cash infusion

Global demand for olefins drives federal initiative

Business Edge

Up to \$3.5 million in federal funding is being poured into nanotechnology research by a Canadian consortium that is led by Edmonton's Quantiam Technologies Inc.

This Technology Partnerships Canada (TPC) investment is part of a \$12.2-million multi-year research and development (R&D) initiative being undertaken by the consortium.

The new funding will go toward development of nanotechnology-based coatings to be used in the production of olefins, the building blocks of plastics, textiles and consumer goods.

"The technology has the potential to bring about a more efficient and environmentally sound process to manufacture olefins," says Steve Petrone, Quantiam's president and founder. "This investment will help us to bring this important innovation to market while helping us to reduce manufacturing costs and emissions."

The production of olefins, primarily ethylene and propylene, is an \$80-billion-per-year industry and growing.

Worldwide demand is higher for this chemical group than for any other.

Quantiam Technologies Inc, working with NOVA Chemicals, a leading olefins producer, will research, develop and demonstrate the benefits of coatings aimed at reducing energy requirements for manufacturing olefins, significantly reducing emissions of greenhouse gases.

Working in partnership with companies across Canada, TPC shares in the cost of private-sector technology projects in aerospace and defence, in environmental technologies, and in enabling technologies such as information and communications technologies, and biotechnology.