



Press release
July 4, 2008

France and Canada form a partnership for innovation

On July 2, 2008, Prime Minister François Fillon, and his Canadian counterpart, Stephen Harper, signed a common declaration, more specifically a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), between OSEO and the Canadian National Research Council (CNRC). In the context of this framework, François Drouin, Chairman of OSEO, and Pierre Coulombe, Chairman of the CNRC Industrial Research Assistance Program (CNRC-IRAP), formed a partnership promoting innovative collaborative projects between France and Canada.

“Open collaborative innovation is what makes sense today,” confirmed François Drouin at this occasion. “It is absolutely essential to reinforce the bridges that exist between the two countries, cultures, and economies, mainly in order to open new paths of development for innovative enterprises. The collaboration with the CNRC is proof of this bridging process.”

The MOU between CNRC and OSEO deals with the following four themes of collaboration:

Innovative collaborative projects: the objective is to implement joint financing for the collaborative development of new methods, products or services.

Competitiveness poles/ Technology clusters: OSEO and the CNRC-IRAP commit to identifying one or two common interest poles/clusters, to which they can connect their actors and with which they can promote transnational technological partnerships.

Demand for collaborative technological projects: every year, the two institutions identify two technological/scientific events, in Canada and in France, encouraging companies to present their technologies; this facilitates the development of technological partnerships.

Innovation systems follow-up: the objective is to keep everyone informed of the potential mandate developments of the two institutions in their national innovation system, thereby benefiting companies through common actions.

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