



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Geomatics at University of Calgary receives \$900,000 in federal funding

Calgary, Alberta — Western Economic Diversification Canada today announced a \$900,000 investment for research and development of three new leading-edge Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) at the University of Calgary's Schulich School of Engineering.

Geomatics location, positioning and navigation technologies are now pervasive in everyday life. They are used in applications as diverse as exploration geophysics, asset and people tracking, vehicular and pedestrian navigation and forestry and agriculture. These technologies play an increasingly important role in practically all aspects of the Canadian economy. Canada, and specifically the Department of Geomatics Engineering at the Schulich School of Engineering, are at the forefront of research and development in this area.

"Canada's new government is strongly committed to supporting innovative projects that maintain and strengthen our position as world-class leaders in the science and technology sector," said Carol Skelton, Minister of National Revenue and Western Economic Diversification Canada. "This project will foster development of a community-based cluster industry which will enable Alberta to attract more international investments and highly skilled professionals."

"This funding is a catalyst for exciting new developments in the field of geomatics technology," said Minister Jim Prentice, Senior Regional Minister for Alberta, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians. "It will enable us to make the most of Alberta's high-tech resources and will help to keep the province strong in a globally competitive environment."

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“Today’s contribution from Western Economic Diversification Canada will enable us to carry out research that recognizes our unique position as a national centre of excellence in the field of geomatics location, positioning and navigation technologies,” said Dr. Gérard Lachapelle head of the U of C’s Position, Location and Navigation Group in Geomatics Engineering, the group receiving the funding.

Over the next ten years, major advancements are expected to take place in the field of geomatics technology. This project will dramatically enhance the reliability and accuracy of satellite networks leading to a wide-range of applications from airborne mapping for oil and gas exploration to tracking of animals and people.

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