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\$8M FOR RESEARCH PROJECTS IN NEWFOUNDLAND

Newfoundland's Research & Development Corporation (RDC) is awarding \$2.4 million to 11 research and development projects that capitalize on the province's proximity to a harsh, ocean environment. The total value of the research projects is more than \$7.9 million, including investments from the private sector and federal funding agencies.

The projects range from new technology that protects oil and gas infrastructure on the seafloor to innovations that enhance night-time maritime surveillance from the air.

Following is a list of the companies receiving funding. The projects are funded under the ArcticTECH, R&D Proof of Concept and Industrial R&D Fellowships programs.

ArcticTECH Program

SubC Control Ltd.: The company is developing technology to give remotely operated vehicle and autonomous underwater vehicle operators a new level of underwater imaging control. It is developing and testing a set of data image recording technologies designed to operate in subsea environments in extremely cold climates such as the Arctic. RDC's funding is \$429,750 with total project costs of \$1,899,432

INTECSEA Canada: The company is researching an effective leak detection system for pipelines and other subsea equipment. Fiber optic cable (FOC) systems have high potential to be used in the Arctic and other cold regions. Despite current FOC use for other subsea applications, no comprehensive testing has been reported in the public domain to date regarding FOC subsea applications in the Arctic and other cold regions. This project intends to close this gap. With improved ability to detect and identify leaks, an operator can make better operational decisions. Rapid and reliable leak detection systems minimize potential oil release to the Arctic and minimize risk to people, the environment, and assets. RDC's funding is \$125,000 with total project costs of \$397,708



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PAL Aerospace Ltd.: This aerospace and defense company specializes in solutions for maritime surveillance operations. The project will enhance the harsh environment capability of their night-flash illumination system (NFIS) to support an Arctic surveillance program the company is developing, including monitoring, surveillance and ice tracking capabilities. RDC's funding is \$499,492 with total project costs of \$887,264

PanGeo Subsea: On the Grand Banks, icebergs scouring the seafloor have the potential to impact subsea infrastructure such as wellheads and other production equipment. To mitigate the risk of infrastructure damage, operators use dredging vessels to excavate 'glory holes', allowing subsea production equipment to be installed below anticipated scour depths. The dredging of glory holes can be slowed or halted by the occurrence of boulders and layers of hardpan, which approximates the properties of concrete. In an effort to maximize efficiency of dredging programs, PanGeo Subsea is working on a field trial on the Grand Banks using their Acoustic Corer and Sub Bottom Imager technologies. This work should demonstrate that these technologies can provide 3D images of geohazards such as boulders and hardpan beneath the seafloor. RDC's funding is \$500,000 with

total project costs of \$1,925,000

R&D Proof of Concept Program Go Beyond Consulting Inc.: The company is developing underwater machine vision technology that will enable autonomous underwater vehicles to photograph the ocean floor and generate detailed wide-area mosaics. The software technology is also capable of analyzing the resulting imagery, automatically counting benthic organisms such as crab, starfish and sea cucumbers. The project aims to develop supporting technology that will maximize the software's effectiveness. RDC's funding is \$245,250 with total project costs of \$327,000

Northern Radar Inc.: The company owns and develops technologies that are used in high frequency surface wave radars (HFSWR) for long range maritime surveillance and oceanographic monitoring of coastal areas. The company plans to expand its capabilities to include remote sensing of ocean surface currents, surface winds and sea state by bringing its own ocean remote sensing HFSWR platform to market. One of the primary applications for this technology would be oil spill mitigation, remediation and prediction, where the radar could provide real time information supporting analysis of the movement of an oil spill. RDC's funding is \$152,550

with total project costs of \$900,536.

Port Electric Solutions Inc.: With a focus in marine navigation systems, Port Electric Solutions is developing a "smart" LED light-based navigation control panel with Ethernet capability. This innovation to marine navigation systems has the potential to enable mariners to receive alerts and responses to queries about the systems' operational state from a computer terminal located anywhere on the ship. This R&D project will involve the development of the control panel as well as real-world testing on a local commercial vessel. The completion of testing will permit Port to commence manufacture and sales of the units in the Canadian and US markets. RDC's funding is \$41,730 with total project costs of \$468,116

Radient360 Solutions Inc.: The company provides in-field inspection, maintenance and auditing solutions for the oil and gas and aerospace industries. In collaboration with a local operator, it plans to develop and deploy an asset management software solution which enhances industry process safety guidelines for both offshore and onshore operations. RDC's funding is \$243,919 with total project costs of \$651,489

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Oceans Ltd.: Through the NSERC Industrial R&D Fellowships



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program, RDC is supporting two projects with Oceans Ltd.

1. Oceans Ltd. is collaborating with researchers across Atlantic Canada to develop methodologies to process oceanographic data to assist with the design and development of turbines to harness energy from ocean currents. This IRDF project will provide Oceans Ltd. with increased opportunities for collaboration with industry and academia partners and will allow the company to recruit a highly qualified researcher, Dr. Joel Culina. Dr. Culina obtained a Ph.D. in Earth and Ocean Sciences and has considerable practical experience in ocean waves and related energy flow. Collaborators on this project include the Fundy Ocean Centre for Energy, the Acadia Tidal Energy Institute, Acadia University, the University of New Brunswick and the Nova Scotia Community College. RDC's funding is \$40,900 with total project costs of \$120,900

2. Oceans Ltd. offers a variety of research and development services and marine expertise for the offshore

petroleum industry. One of these services is bio-monitoring, which uses biological responses (known as bioindicators) of marine organisms to understand and measure the effects of environmental contaminants from offshore oil on ecosystem health. To date Oceans has studied bioindicators in different finfish species. By hiring post doctoral fellow Dr. Juan Carlos Perez Casanova, Oceans will study bioindicators in marine invertebrates such as shrimp, snow crab, scallop and sea star. By further developing its biomonitoring services, Oceans will be in a position to expand its environmental monitoring products and services. RDC's funding is \$37,000 with total project costs of \$117,000.

GRI Simulations Inc.: This is a software development company focused on real-time simulation, modeling, and visualization for critical marine activities. Project leader Dr. Matthew Hamilton will develop subsea seismic visualization capability to be integrated into the company's virtual remotely operated

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vehicle field development kit. This project will complete the software system, capable of visualizing a subsea oil field interactively, in real-time. RDC's funding is \$60,000 with total project costs of \$209,494.

BRITISH COLUMBIA GETTING READY FOR LNG WORKFORCE

Boasting a direct sea route across the Pacific Ocean to lucrative Asian markets, British Columbia could become a major liquefied natural gas (LNG) export hub within the next decade. In fact, seven liquefaction projects representing tens of billions of dollars in capital investment have been proposed along the Western Canadian province's extensive coastline. Proposed British Columbia LNG export terminals, and their

prospective developers, include:

- Kitimat LNG, Apache Canada Ltd. and Chevron Canada
- LNGCanada, Shell Canada Ltd., PetroChina Company Limited, Korea Gas Corp., Mitsubishi Corp.
- Pacific Northwest LNG, Progress Energy Canada (PETRONAS and JAPEX)
- P r i n c e Rupert LNG, BG Group
- Douglas Channel LNG, BC LNG Export Co-operative LLC (LNG Partners and Haisla Nation)
- Woodfibre LNG Project, Woodfibre Natural Gas Limited (Pacific Oil & Gas Limited)
- Aurora LNG, Nexen (CNOOC Limited), INPEX Corp. and JGC Corp.

The proposals are under different stages of review, and it remains to be seen how many of them will actually be developed. Nevertheless, stakeholders in British Columbia's workforce development efforts are already taking steps to ensure that enough qualified people are available to do the tens of thousands of potential jobs in the province's nascent LNG sector.

"We're on a very committed path to ensuring that we have the correct number of people with the right skills at the right time to satisfy this large LNG industry that's going to be coming to British Columbia," said Gary Herman, Interim CEO with the British Columbia Industry Training Authority (ITA), which is a governmental agency that manages the province's skilled trades training system.

In addition to setting program standards for technical training providers, ITA oversees provider credentialing and certifies that students are qualified once they have completed apprenticeships or other courses of study, Herman explained.

"We have about \$48 billion of projected investment between 2013 and 2022 in the LNG sector of B.C. which is obviously a key component of the provincial economy," he continued.

The \$48 billion investment scenario, which assumes that five of the proposed plants will become fully operational, calls for approximately 60,000 jobs during a 2016-2017 peak construction period and roughly 75,000 jobs during operations, Herman said. Examples of skilled

trades that will be in demand during construction include mechanics, electricians, steamfitters, carpenters and heavy equipment operators, according to ITA. The need for many of these trades should extend into operations as well given the need to maintain equipment at liquefaction terminals, added Herman, pointing out that other hot British Columbia is anticipating a surge in LNG projects – and the requisite jobs – at a time when the province's more established industries are rebounding from the economic recession that began roughly 6 years ago, noted Herman.

"B.C. is a very resource-rich province so there's a lot of activity happening in mining, shipbuilding and the softwood lumber industry," he said. "All of these things are coming together at the same time."

Although ground has not yet been broken on any of the proposed export terminals, the LNG sector will be vying for a pool of skilled workers whose know-how likely will be coveted by various industries, Herman explained.

"It's a little early in terms of the actual competition, but everyone knows this is coming," he said. "Everyone is preparing so that we'll have skills on the ground. We recognize that LNG will be competing with other industries and we need to be sure that we have the correct number of trades there when they're needed."

In tandem with the British Columbia Ministry of Education, ITA is taking a multifaceted approach to stoking elementary- and secondary-

level students' interest in career opportunities in the LNG sector. Beginning as early as Grade 5, ITA's school outreach efforts inform students about various career options in the trades, Herman noted. Formal trades training can begin at the secondary level through the province's Accelerated Credit Enrollment to Industry Training (ACE IT) program. Under ACE IT, students take trades training in high school and receive dual credit for their first level of apprenticeship training. Those who complete the ACE IT phase can then obtain on-the-job, paid Secondary School Apprenticeship (SSA) training through public colleges and private training providers

"Students can actually find an apprenticeship in high school and work full-time in apprenticeship credits while getting high school credits," Herman said of SSA. "We're very strong on promoting the trades in the school system."

Export terminal developers are also taking the initiative to entice British Columbians to careers in LNG. In one case, BG Group and Pacific Northwest LNG are supporting the Coastal Pathways Partnership at Northwest Community College in Prince Rupert, B.C. The partnership provides trades training for students in the province's Northern Coastal region, the area in which six of the terminals would be located (Woodfibre would be built in southern British Columbia). Also, BG Group is sponsoring a \$5 million, 5-year partnership with the Canadian Youth Business Foundation (CYBF) that will

support skills development and start-up funding for young entrepreneurs in the vicinity of its proposed Prince Rupert LNG Project site.

"We foresee industrial growth creating significant opportunities for the western Canada workforce," remarked Chris Finlayson, BG Group chief executive, in a Nov. 6, 2013, CYBF press release announcing the partnership. "Our relationship with the Canadian Youth Business Foundation represents an investment in the future – the young entrepreneurs who receive start-up funding today may well be serving a vibrant LNG sector tomorrow."

REPORT ON ALBERTA DOCTORS' RELUCTANCE TO LINK OIL PATCH TO HEALTH PROBLEMS RAISES CONCERNS

Opposition politicians are raising concerns over a report done for Alberta's energy regulator that suggests doctors are reluctant to draw links between health problems and the energy industry.

Peter Foster: In cranking up concern about local oil sands impacts, Canadian scientists have played a leading activist role. Continue reading.

"We do have a culture in this province which actively diminishes healthy and important debate about the health and environmental effects of our dominant industry," NDP critic Rachel Notley said Monday.

David Swann, a Liberal member of the legislature, said the government

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doesn't even want to know the truth. "It's clear the government doesn't really want to know the best science in some of these areas," said Swann, who lost his job as a public health doctor for speaking out on climate change during the Tory government of Ralph Klein. "They haven't funded it, and they haven't disseminated the knowledge appropriately to the physician population."

On Tuesday, a hearing is set to begin in Peace River, Alta., about the source and effects of odours that landowners blame on the local oil patch, particularly the operations of Baytex Energy.

Baytex uses an unusual method of heating bitumen in above-ground tanks to extract the oil. Residents say the fumes from those heated tanks are causing powerful gassy smells and leading to symptoms that include severe headaches, dizziness, sinus congestion, muscle spasms, popping ears, memory loss, numbness, constipation, diarrhea, vomiting, eye twitching and fatigue.

Among the reports commissioned for the hearing by the Alberta Energy Regulator is one from Margaret Sears, a doctor in chemical engineering, who has testified on environmental contamination for many bodies including the Royal Society of Canada.

Sears wrote that even though most health professionals believe petrochemical emissions affect health, Peace River doctors seemed unwilling to consider

if the conditions their patients complained of were caused by long-term exposure to petrochemicals.

"There were reports from various sources that physicians would not diagnose a relationship between bitumen exposures and chronic symptoms, that physician care was refused for individuals suggesting such a connection," she wrote.

Even medical labs refused to conduct an analysis when told it was to be used to try to establish such a link, said Sears.

One doctor, in a medical report released as part of the hearing, advised his patient "to go through environmental lawyers" and did not prescribe treatment.

Sears confirmed to The Canadian Press that her conclusions were based on interviews with both patients and doctors.

She wrote that the physicians' reluctance stemmed in part from a lack of research they could use to form a credible opinion and in part from "fear of consequences."

"I'm not surprised," said Dr. John O'Connor, a doctor who was disciplined in 2007 for raising cancer concerns in the oil patch community of Fort Chipewyan. The Alberta Cancer Board has since found elevated levels of four different cancers in the community.

"It has been said to me many a time over the last few years, or words to that effect," he said.

"It's not easy. You set yourself

up as a moving target."

Allan Garbutt, president of the Alberta Medical Association, said he couldn't comment on the specific concerns in Sears' report.

"I certainly agree that physicians must not feel intimidated in exercising their advocacy role," he said.

"There would also be merit in exploring the report's suggestion that better research on the impact of oil and gas emissions on patients and communities is needed for strong policy development. Better information, training and support for physicians to help diagnose their patients would always be welcome."

Matthew Grant, spokesman for Alberta Health Minister Fred Horne, downplayed Sears's suggestions.

"No concerns of this nature have been forwarded to our office. We would always expect physicians to inform the government of any public health concerns they may have."

Notley said the province has consistently avoided conducting research that could answer the kind of questions being raised in Peace River.

"The status quo is to believe that nothing's wrong and all industry has to do is say, 'Show us a mountain of evidence,'" she said. "It's very imbalanced, and that imbalance works against people without the resources to build those mountains of evidence."

Swann said Alberta public health doctors aren't trained

enough to be able to diagnose health complaints caused by environmental contamination.

"We haven't been trained to do the physical assessment, order the right blood tests and put together the exposure with the health systems," he said. "We're working in ignorance, and there is the fear of challenging both government and industry in such a dominant industry activity here."

Swann said his experience was widely noted among his colleagues.

"I paid a price, 10 years ago. I think the lesson most physicians took from that is that you speak up at your risk."

SASKATCHEWAN OIL AND GAS STOCKS PUMP OUT SOME NEWS (SGY, QEC, CPG, KEY & CNTO)

Move over Bakken formation stocks as Saskatchewan oil and gas stocks like Surge Energy Inc (SGY), Questerre Energy Corp (QEC), Crescent Point Energy Corp (CPG), Keyera Corp (KEY) and Centor Energy Inc (CNTO) pump out some news.

While the Bakken formation is already on most investor radars, few American investors may realize that the formation stretches North into the oil and gas rich Canadian province of Saskatchewan where stocks like Surge Energy Inc (TSE: SGY), Questerre Energy Corp (TSE: QEC), Crescent Point Energy Corp (TSE: CPG), Keyera Corp (TSE: KEY) and Centor Energy Inc (OTCBB:



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CNTO) have been pumping out a good flow of newsworthy news in recent weeks. I should mention that Canada's oil reserves are ranked #3 after to Venezuela and Saudi Arabia with over 95% of these reserves being the oil sands of Alberta while the neighboring province of Saskatchewan (which the Bakken formation stretches into from South Dakota and Montana) along with offshore areas of Newfoundland also contain substantial production and reserves (Note: Excluding oil sands, Alberta would have 39% of Canada's remaining conventional oil reserves, followed by offshore Newfoundland with 28% and Saskatchewan with 27%).

With that in mind, here is a look at some news being pumped out by important Saskatchewan oil and gas stocks or energy players:

- **Surge Energy Acquires Saskatchewan Light Oil Production Assets for \$109M.** Small cap Surge Energy, which explores for, develops, produces and markets petroleum and natural gas reserves primarily in Western Canada and the Northern United States, announced at the beginning of last week that they had entered into an agreement to acquire certain high quality, low decline, operated, light oil producing assets strategically located in the company's core area of SE Saskatchewan. The assets include wells producing 1,250 barrels of oil equivalent per day (boepd) of light crude oil, production infrastructure and approximately 12,000 acres of undeveloped land. Thanks to the acquisition and better-than-anticipated operational and drilling results, Surge Energy will be revising its 2014 guidance upward and increasing its annual dividend to 54 cents per share from 52 cents. Surge Energy's CEO told Bloomberg:

"We do see other deals out there. Our goal now would be to probably consolidate more around our core areas."

- **SurgQuesterre Energy Corp Gives an Update.** Small cap Questerre Energy Corp, which has base production and reserves in the tight oil bakken/torquay of southeast Saskatchewan, announced yesterday that commissioning has been completed for a joint venture central compression and condensate stabilization facility in the Kakwa-Resthaven area. Questerre Energy Corp has a 25% working interest in this facility. According to the CEO:

"This facility will be critical in reducing the high back pressure in the pipeline. As a result, we expect it will enhance production performance from the wells. We

are pleased the operator was able to construct and commission this plant within the expected timelines."

Questerre Energy Corp is up 58.5% over the past year and down 21.7% over the past five years

Questerre Energy is up 78.4% over the past year and down 17.8% over the past five years.

Crescent Point Energy to List on the NYSE. Large cap conventional oil and gas producer Crescent Point Energy, which has focused its acquisition efforts in core areas in southern Saskatchewan and central and southern Alberta, was just approved for a listing on the New York Stock Exchange with shares expected to begin trading on Wednesday, January 22, under the ticker symbol "CPG." On the Toronto Exchange, Crescent Point Energy is up 3% over the past year and up 71.2% over the past five years.

Keyera Corp to Expand Its NGL fractionation and Storage Facility in Fort Saskatchewan. Mid cap Keyera Corp, one of the largest natural gas midstream businesses in Canada, has announced that it will expand its NGL fractionation and storage site in Fort Saskatchewan (KFS), more than doubling C3+ capacity to 65,000 b/d from 30,000 b/d. The estimated total gross cost for the project is approximately \$220 million and detailed engineering work is already currently underway with a target completion in the first quarter of 2016. Keyera Corp is up 30.5% over the past year and up 87.9% since January 2011.

- **Centor Energy Concludes a Leasing Deal on 21,658 acres.** Small cap Centor Energy, which is focused on world class oil shale resources in Pasquia Hills, Saskatchewan, recently closed a deal on a 55% interest in two leases (SHA0011 and SHA0013) comprising of 21,658 acres and potentially over 1.1 Billion barrels of recoverable oil. These leases were granted for a term of 15 years commencing March 7, 2013 and are located in the Pasquia Hills area of northeast Saskatchewan east of Prince Albert near the Manitoba border in the western Canadian sedimentary basin. The property's resources are estimated based upon analysis of previously completed geological surveys, core drilling programs and laboratory testing. In the press release to announce the conclusion of deal, the CEO said:

"This is an extraordinary acquisition of an established world-class resource with significant upside potential. This resource will underpin our strategy to develop a large-scale oil shale to liquids commercial operation. It

provides a core hub to kick off our oil shale operations, broadening the Company's revenue base with an entry into an expansive energy sector. We will be pursuing additional energy resources and look forward to updating shareholders on continued progress in the first quarter of 2014."

OIL FLOWING FROM CUSHING TO HOUSTON IN KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

A Canadian company has started operating the southern portion of a cross-border pipeline that has stirred controversy and tension between the United States and Canada.

TransCanada says in a statement on its web site Wednesday that it is delivering oil through the Gulf Coast portion of its 36-inch Keystone XL pipeline.

"This is a very important milestone for TransCanada, our shippers and Gulf Coast refiners who have been waiting for a pipeline to supply oil directly from Cushing," said Russ Girling, President and CEO TransCanada.

"This project is a critical, modern piece of American energy infrastructure that allows producers to safely connect growing production with the world's most efficient refiners on the U.S. Gulf Coast. It also provides those American refineries the opportunity to use more of the crude oil produced in both Canada and the United States for decades to come."

The 487-mile pipeline is the southern leg of the Keystone XL pipeline, which ships oil from Cushing, Oklahoma to Houston-area refineries.

PEACE COUNTRY OILSANDS EMISSIONS HEARING BEGINS

Families abandoned homes near heavy oil facility in northwest Alberta

A hearing aimed at finding out if emissions from oilsands projects in northwest Alberta are making neighbouring property owners sick begins this morning in Peace River.

The Alberta Energy Regulator is holding the 10-day hearing into the controversial bitumen extraction process called Cold Heavy Oil with Sand (CHOPS).

Michel Labrecque, who will testify on Friday, said he's suffered severe headaches, breathing and vision problems while living on his property near the wells.

But he said when he tried to get help from a doctor, the doctor told him to find a lawyer instead.

He basically told me there's nothing he could do for me," Labrecque said. "He told me to go find myself a lawyer. He said, 'You don't need a doctor, you need a lawyer.'"

Labrecque said he doesn't blame doctors for not wanting to become involved.

"It would be a lot of trouble for them," he said. "I don't think they have time to get involved with cases like that where they would have to be to court."

"I think they just shy away from the whole thing."

Labrecque, launched a lawsuit and moved away from his property and the wells.

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