

## Cool technology helps take the hurt out of cold tech scene

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Bummed out about the state of the Ottawa and Canadian technology sector? There's plenty of reason.

But amid the layoffs, weak investment and subterranean stock prices, there is still plenty of cool technology coming up.

OCRI has just added Cognilore, an online publishing management tools maker, and Base 10 Web Solutions, which makes tools to build websites for homesellers, to a business accelerator project. They get a roof, support services and coaching from experienced executives. IPeak Networks, a technology marketing recruiter, just graduated and is expanding staff.

Move over solar and wind energy. A team of British researchers from Zarlink Semiconductor and other companies have figured out a way to harness the human heartbeat to power implanted medical devices. They said they have designed and tested in humans an in-body microgenerator that can support one-third of the energy needed to drive a heart pacemaker. It uses differential pressure in the chambers of the heart to drive a linear generator. The team is taking its findings to medical device makers. Started two years ago, the \$2 million project is funded partly by the British government and by Zarlink, InVivo Technology and Perpetuum Ltd.

Vocantas said that Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston is using interactive technology to measure how patients are responding to medications. The automated telephone response technology could give physicians information quicker on patient symptoms and side effects and trigger followup calls rather than wait for the next scheduled appointment. Algonquin College is also using the technology.

Khaled El Emam, a University of Ottawa professor, has started Privacy Analytics Inc. to commercialize technology developed at CHEO to protect the privacy of patient health records.

Hospitals are digging into patient admission data to spot the emergence of new diseases, clues for cures and to reduce waiting times. But privacy protection can be broken when data bases are cross-referenced.

"Medical data can save both money and lives," Mr. El Emam said. "Using automation, we can remove the risk and uncertainty surrounding the secondary use of medical data."

CHEO is using the tool to manage the sharing of pharmaceutical data.

WIN Translation.com's Hiping Iler is teaching banks and other customers how to deal not only with language barriers, but also the culture barriers in reaching the more than 230,000 immigrants who come to Canada annually. Banks are working at putting more languages into Internet banking websites and branches. That is just part of the issue. Many immigrants come from Asia and have access to considerable assets, but come from frugal cultures where taking out loans and carrying credit card balances are avoided.

## People

Wi-LAN has appointed Jim Skippen as chairman of the board of directors. He will continue as chief executive officer of the Ottawa patent licensing company, a position he has held since June 2006. Hatim Zaghoul, a co-founder of Wi-LAN, left the board and chair position in March. Director Richard Shorkey, who heads the audit committee, was appointed lead independent director.

Vikram Saksena quit as chief technology officer at Sonus Networks, a Boston area company with Ottawa operations. He will be CTO at Tellabs, a Chicago-area company which also competes with Nortel. He has 25 years experience in the industry with Cisco, AT&T and five years at Sonus.

Curtiss-Wright Corp. has appointed Tom Quinly president of the motion controls division. He joined CW with the takeover of Dy4 Systems of Ottawa in 2004 and has since managed the integration of six other imbedded computing acquisitions. He succeeds David Adams who was promoted co-chief operating officer along with David Linton.

Enablence cut top executives responsible for corporate development and European operations and chopped jobs at Pannaway, a new acquisition, and some other company operations in the U.S. The company plans to reduce costs as it integrates new operations. It has \$32 million in cash and will spend \$6 million to \$7 million this quarter.

## Elsewhere

March Networks said that an undisclosed financial services company in Latin America is buying \$6 million in surveillance hardware and software for 1,900 branches.

The struggling Ottawa technology industry, once grandly titled Silicon Valley North, is the now the eastern terminus of "Ontario's Technology Corridor."

That's the marketing flag that an Ontario trade delegation, representing Waterloo, Toronto and Ottawa companies, is carrying to Britain. They are pitching "a highly-educated workforce, R&D tax credits that cut up to 70 per cent (of the cost of ) developing technology and backed by the world's soundest banking system."

To counter the lure of Boston, Washington and California, they are promoting noted Canadian technology employers like Google, IBM, Cisco, Microsoft, Toyota and GlaxoSmithKline. RIM ranks third in the lineup and Nortel ninth.

Autodesk warned that sales and profits will miss analyst forecasts as a result of a weakening economy. The California design software company, which has Ottawa operations, is expecting sales of up to \$550 million while

analysts were expecting \$611 million. It predicted profits of up to 34 cents per share compared to analyst forecasts of 51 cents. Autodesk had revenues of \$607 million in the October-ending quarter, up 12.8 per cent from a year earlier. Profits of 56 cents beat analyst expectations.

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