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## **Innovation Park at Queen's University connects to global grid of research networks**

### ***ORION connects its first research park***

TORONTO – The Ontario Research and Innovation Optical Network (ORION) has connected its first research park. Researchers, academics and industry partners at Innovation Park at Queen's University can now access the super speed of Ontario's fibre optic network for research and education, tapping into a pool of over 1 million researchers, scientists, faculty and students across the province, and connecting to the grid of advanced research networks around the world.

"We are pleased that Innovation Park at Queen's University is connecting to the network," says ORION President/CEO, Phil Baker. "This is an excellent example of how the unique capabilities of the ORION network can be used to enhance and support more collaboration between industry and university researchers, and help advance Ontario's Innovation Agenda."

Officially opened last June, Innovation Park at Queen's University is becoming a hub for scientific collaboration and business development efforts in the Kingston and Eastern Ontario region. Through co-location of academic and industry researchers, service providers and commercialization experts, the Park is helping Ontario researchers and entrepreneurs to create, develop and market their innovations. Made possible by a \$21 million grant from the Ontario government and through collaboration with Novelis Inc., Innovation Park seeks to foster an environment of discovery that accelerates and supports the growth of new businesses.

"Innovation Park is excited by the possibilities that the connection to ORION presents" says Rick Boswell, Assistant Director. "The opportunity to attract companies that want to expand their collaborations with Queen's and other institutions in Ontario and beyond is greatly enhanced. This infrastructure will be an important component of the value-added service that we will be able to offer to key industrial partners."

Focusing on advanced materials, alternative energy and environmental technologies, the Park accommodates small and medium-size companies with a research focus, and faculty-led research projects that have industrial partners.

#### About Innovation Park:

Innovation Park at Queen's University is a strategic investment in physical and intellectual capital that is enhancing the economic potential of the South Eastern Ontario region. The "co-location" facility for academic and industrial research provides access to a variety of resources – leading edge researchers, technical expertise, highly skilled graduates for summer or permanent placement, research and development infrastructure and specialized equipment, programs and services. Located at the urban core of the city of Kingston and five kilometers from Queen's main campus, Innovation Park is highly accessible to major transportation routes, recreational facilities, and other amenities of interest. For more information about Innovation Park, visit [www.innovationpark.ca](http://www.innovationpark.ca).

#### About ORION

The Ontario Research and Innovation Optical Network (ORION), a not-for-profit organization, is Ontario's ultra high-speed research and education network which connects all of Ontario's universities, most colleges, several medical and other public research facilities and a growing number of school boards to one another and to the global grid of research and education networks. Stretching 5,800 kilometres over 21 communities throughout Ontario, ORION connects over one million Ontario researchers, scientists,

students, teachers and staff to critical infrastructure for research, education and innovation. Visit [www.orion.on.ca](http://www.orion.on.ca).

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