



**For Immediate Release  
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## **NORCAT joins ORION and connects to global grid of research networks**

**Sudbury, Ontario** – The Northern Centre for Advanced Technology Inc. (NORCAT) is plugging into the global grid of advanced research networks by joining ORION, Ontario's ultra high-speed fibre optic network dedicated exclusively to support research and education in the province.

ORION is providing world-class research connectivity to NORCAT's new Innovation and Commercialization Centre, joining some 80 Ontario research and education institutions linked to ORION and partners across Canada and around the world.

"We are very excited about joining the ORION network, and plan to take advantage of its advanced network capabilities to expand our collaboration with innovation partners here at home and abroad," says NORCAT CEO, Darryl Lake.

NORCAT is a recognized leader in technology innovation, contributing to critical development with such partners as NASA and the Canadian Space Agency.

NORCAT's new state-of-the-art home houses a new incubator facility and has centralized NORCAT's technology development and industrial services, bringing a new service for small businesses and pre-commercial entrepreneurs.

"NORCAT is a critical economic development and training resource for the entire north," says Maxim Jean-Louis, the President and CEO of Contact North/Contact Nord, and chair of ORANO, the non-for-profit organization that owns and operates the ORION network. "It is vital that our region is able to access next-generation technologies and resources to ensure that we can support leading institutions like NORCAT and expand the north's innovation capacity."

"We're delighted that NORCAT has connected to the network," said ORION President/CEO Phil Baker. "The partnership will bring increased opportunities for innovation and training collaborations to the entire Sudbury region," he said.

Other local institutions connected to ORION include Laurentian University, Cambrian College, Contact North/Contact Nord, the Sudbury Neutrino Observatory Institute and the Northern Ontario School of Medicine. Also connected are the Rainbow District School Board and le Conseil scolaire publique du Grand Nord de l'Ontario, two of 16 Ontario boards currently connected. ORION's Point of Presence in Sudbury, one of 21 province-wide, is hosted by AGILIS.

### **About NORCAT**

The Northern Centre for Advanced Technology Inc. (NORCAT) is a not-for-profit, non-share incorporated company based in Sudbury. For over a decade NORCAT has been a leader in occupational health and safety training, mine training, technology innovation and commercialization. It is the central location for innovation development, occupational health and safety resource centre and eLearning production. Residency offices and industrial labs are also available to small and medium sized businesses through NORCAT's Residency Program.

Learn more at <http://www.norcat.org/>

### **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 1.3 million Ontario researchers, scientists, students, teachers and staff to critical infrastructure for research, education and innovation. Learn more at [www.orion.on.ca](http://www.orion.on.ca).

- 30 -

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