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## **BC Bioenergy Network Becomes a Consortium Partner of the MITACS ACCELERATE Program.**

**VANCOUVER, BC – January 08, 2010** – The BC Bioenergy Network (“BCBN”) has signed on as a Consortium Partner to the MITACS ACCELERATE Graduate Research Internship Program. This relationship will facilitate the placement of post-graduate and post-doctoral fellows from BC institutions into bioenergy companies around the Province.

“MITACS ACCELERATE has shown that BC graduate and post-doctoral interns are making important contributions to BC companies,” said Dr. Arvind Gupta, Scientific Director of MITACS. “They bring fresh perspectives and expertise in finding innovative solutions to industry problems.”

Industry Partners associated with the BC Bioenergy Network are provided with the opportunity to access innovative R&D and expand the organizations R&D capability with skilled researchers and potential future employees. Post-graduate researchers in the bioenergy industry in BC receive a financially supported training experience and enhanced career opportunities.

“The MITACS ACCELERATE Program is a unique way to strengthen collaboration in the bioenergy industry with a minimal investment of time and resources,” said Michael Weedon, Executive Director of the BC Bioenergy Network. “This is an opportunity to develop valuable relationships between BC universities and bioenergy organizations to facilitate future collaborative opportunities.”

Under the terms of the agreement, the BCBN will actively seek to match companies and post-graduate students in the bioenergy industry. Further details can be found on the BC Bioenergy website ([www.bcbioenergy.ca/partners/mitacs.html](http://www.bcbioenergy.ca/partners/mitacs.html)).

### About the BC Bioenergy Network

Established in April 2008 with a \$25 million grant from the BC government, the BC Bioenergy Network is an industry-led association that acts as a catalyst for deploying near-term bioenergy technologies and organizing mission-driven research for the development and demonstration of sustainable to build a world class bioenergy capability in BC. For more information about the BCBN, visit [www.bcbioenergy.ca](http://www.bcbioenergy.ca).

### About MITACS

MITACS is a federally-funded research network with offices across Canada. It brings together academia, industry and the public sector through research and training initiatives to develop cutting edge tools vital to the knowledge-based economy. In 2003, MITACS piloted a first-of-its-kind internship program, MITACS ACCELERATE, which connects Canadian graduate students and their professors with companies to facilitate knowledge transfer and introduce the private sector to the research expertise within Canada’s universities. For more information about the MITACS ACCELERATE program visit [www.mitacsaccelerate.ca](http://www.mitacsaccelerate.ca). For more information about MITACS, visit [www.mitacs.ca](http://www.mitacs.ca).

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