

## LOCAL NEWS

# Program to help bring emerging technologies to market

Whig-Standard

THE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER OFFICE of Queen's University, PARTEQ Innovations, and Ontario Centres of Excellence have announced a new program to bring high-tech local ideas from the lab to the market.

The two agencies will work together to find, fund and commercialize promising technologies arising out of research in the Kingston region.

Innovative ideas from researchers at Queen's, Royal Military College and Kingston General Hospital, plus industry and businesses that are working in post-secondary institutions, are

## Local researchers can receive grants up to \$100,000

eligible for the grants worth between \$10,000 and \$100,000.

"This is intended to get ideas through that valley of death between having an idea and bringing it to market," said Randall North, associate director of commercial development at PARTEQ, this week.

The program will fund innovations in five areas: earth and environmental technologies, energy, materials and manufacturing, photonics and communications, and information technology.

"This partnership makes sense on so many levels," agreed Bryan Kanarens, director of strategic programs for at the Ontario Centres for Excellence.

"It co-ordinates our joint efforts as we unearth the best of Queen's research in five targeted innovation sectors. It also gives researchers access to the so-called gap funding that is so crucial to moving technologies toward commercialization.

"It's a tremendous opportunity for researchers who think they may have something that, taken to market, can

make a real difference in the world."

Under the initiative, researchers will be eligible for funding and expertise for advancing the development of their research.

The money can be used for prototypes of technology, sophisticated models to see if research proves out in the real world or for improvements or feature enhancements to products that they currently have developed.

While the amount of money available is not enough to entirely fund a business, the two say it is enough to

give a promising local high-tech concern a hand up as they develop their research.

"Our reason for being is to encourage economic growth," explained Kanarens.

The two say there has already been significant interest from the local high-tech community concerning the proposal and one grant has already been approved.

Researchers who qualify for the program will also be provided with market assessment and technology evaluation expertise, and, where applicable, assistance with creating spin-off companies.