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For Immediate Release

## **Innovation project to stimulate York Region manufacturing**

*Networking and collaboration are key to manufacturing and Region's economic future*

**NEWMARKET** – The Regional Municipality of York and economic development partners in local municipalities have implemented Innovation in Manufacturing, a project to support local manufacturing businesses by encouraging and fostering the conditions for innovation and collaboration.

“York Region is committed to building a vibrant and sustainable economy,” said York Region Chairman and CEO Bill Fisch. “By supporting innovative manufacturers in meeting their goals, we indirectly influence productivity, global competitiveness and prosperity.”

The project will assist innovative manufacturers and investors in identifying competitive opportunities in York Region manufacturing and lay the essential groundwork to encourage new and sustained manufacturing investment in our local municipalities.

“Networking and collaboration are vital to a thriving manufacturing sector,” said Town of Newmarket Regional Councillor John Taylor, Chair of the Region’s Planning and Economic Development Committee. “Our economic development teams will provide the opportunities to get people talking and working together even more.”

The Innovation in Manufacturing project will:

- undertake research in innovation
- produce a self-guided online resource for manufacturers to assess their capacity to develop research and promote innovation
- co-host MedEDGE Summit 2011, a Life Sciences symposium, with the Town of Richmond Hill, Employment Ontario and VentureLAB, on June 16
- host a manufacturer’s conference within the next year
- take a leadership role in the development of a consortium of 50 manufacturers

Due to the importance of developing the manufacturing sector in each local municipality, project staff will partner with local economic development offices to identify high potential manufacturers to participate in the proposed project.

Staff will work with local manufacturing businesses to share information and ideas and form new linkages and networks that enable participants to seize innovation, identify new opportunities for collaboration and work together to expand capacity within the manufacturing sector here in York Region.

Local municipalities in York Region and their manufacturing businesses share important common goals to retain and create jobs and to foster a more innovative and prosperous business climate. Region-wide stakeholder input is actively sought to ensure that the needs of the business community are fully reflected in the outcome.

The basis for the Innovation in Manufacturing project was developed by manufacturers, local economic development offices, Chambers of Commerce and Boards of Trade who participated in manufacturer symposiums held in March and October, 2010.

Please see [investinyork.ca/existing-business/innovation](http://investinyork.ca/existing-business/innovation)

For more information on The Regional Municipality of York, please visit [www.york.ca](http://www.york.ca)

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