

BACKGROUND

SpringBoard West Innovations Inc.

SpringBoard will help researchers, industry and entrepreneurs take their ideas from the lab to the marketplace and increase technology commercialization in Saskatchewan.

Led by an interim six-member board of directors, SpringBoard will bring together the University of Regina, Regina Regional Economic Development Authority (RREDA), business, researchers and entrepreneurs in a collaborative and interdisciplinary environment that mixes innovation and entrepreneurship. The board will have representatives from the university, RREDA, the private sector and the funding stakeholders.

A manager will be hired to run the centre's day-to-day operations, which will be located at Innovation Place Regina.

SpringBoard will provide services in three areas:

Technology Innovation Programming

The organization will develop a suite of workshops, seminars, networking sessions, and host tradeshows and major conferences, for clients, the technology and business community, and stakeholders throughout the province.

The programming will focus on Energy, Environment and Informatics. The centre will also organize annual major conferences in one of the areas.

Entrepreneur in Residence Program

Two entrepreneurs in residence will share their expertise with new entrepreneurs, researchers and existing businesses. The centre will recruit business professionals and entrepreneurs with extensive executive level experience for one-year terms.

Technology Incubator Services

SpringBoard will provide incubator services that address three components of the commercialization process – discovery and feasibility, pre-commercialization, and commercialization. These services will be facilitated by SpringBoard staff working in partnership with the University Industry Liaison Office (UILO) and other associated stakeholders and programs.

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- The discovery and feasibility component will determine which applicants and projects will be accepted into which program areas. This component will also include assistance with intellectual property and patents.
- Pre-commercialization services will include assistance with technology development, business development and funding development. This component will rely on industry sponsorship for funding.
- The commercialization component will provide shared office and lab space and administrative services; and management and business consulting services.