

PRESS RELEASE

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COMMERCIALIZATION OF MICRO AND NANOSYSTEMS CONFERENCE 2004 TO TAKE PLACE IN EDMONTON, CANADA

September 2003 Amsterdam Conference set Attendance Record for European Editions of International COMS Conferences Series

Amsterdam, The Netherlands, and Edmonton, Canada – November 15, 2003 —The 8th International Commercialization of Micro and Nanosystems Conference (COMS), held recently at Amsterdam's Grand Hotel Krasnapolsky, set an attendance record in excess of 250 attendees, including 40 exhibitors for the European editions of COMS. The international audience heard presentations from academic, commercial, venture capital and government laboratory sectors. The three and half days program addressed the latest developments and issues in the commercialization of micro and nanosystems, including market forecasting, capital formation, technical cluster creation, application opportunities, industry standards, and industry roadmaps.

Opened by Rein Bemer, the Dutch Government's Director General for Innovation, and Roger Grace, President of MANCEF - the Micro and Nanotechnology Commercialization Education Foundation, the first conference day featured entrepreneurship, government strategies, markets, and commercialization aspects. The conference was structured around three plenary sessions, which were followed by breakout sessions giving the opportunity to over 100 speakers to address 20 subject areas. Keynote speakers from the US, Dutch and UK Governments and from leading companies in the micro-nano field lead the first plenary session. Roel Pieper, former board member of Philips Electronics and CEO of Favonius Ventures addressed the changing paradigms in business today, reshaping the role of individuals and entrepreneurs. Paul Atherton, of Nanoventures gave well-received conclusions to the session with a perspective on the MEMS/MST industry and the status of two public companies.

"The conference produced a stimulating environment for quality discussion and debate on the important issues facing the MEMS industry", said local conference co-chair Kees Eijkel. "Through networking, delegates had the opportunity to meet and interact. Participants reported that over the three and half days many useful contacts were made and business relationships seeded". COMS2003 was sponsored and organized by the Micro and Nanotechnology Commercialization Education Foundation (MANCEF) and co-sponsored by Sandia National

Laboratories, EV Group, and a number of regional organizations, companies, research institutes and media. The conference's goal is to educate individuals active in the business of micro and nanosystems and supporting technologies and provide them a forum for sharing their broad experiences in the commercialization of these technologies.

Greater Edmonton's Microsystems and Nanotechnology cluster was chosen by MANCEF to co-host the 9th International Conference on the Commercialization of Micro and Nano Systems (COMS 2004) at the Shaw Conference Centre, Aug. 29 to Sep. 2, 2004. This will mark the first ten years of the COMS conferences that started in Banff, Alberta in 1994 and thus complete a decade of success. "Winning the privilege to co-host COMS 2004 highlights the fact that Edmonton is becoming recognized for its micro and nano systems assets," says Chris Lumb, cluster co-chair and President and CEO of Micralyne Inc. "With the National Research Council's National Institute for Nanotechnology at the University of Alberta, and the growing base of 'NanoMEMS' companies in the region, the economic potential of these emerging technologies is enormous for Greater Edmonton."

"Commercial growth and economic development are the ultimate goals of the Micro and Nanotechnology cluster", says Allan Scott, Economic Development Edmonton (EDE) President and CEO. "This will be a tremendous opportunity to showcase Greater Edmonton's emerging Microsystems and Nanotechnology cluster under an international spotlight." The Microsystems and Nanotechnology cluster is one of nine industry clusters identified in the Greater Edmonton Competitiveness Strategy the region's blueprint for a next-generation, knowledge-based economy spearheaded by EDE.

A call for papers has been issued for COMS 2004. For more information, please visit www.mancef.org/coms2004.htm

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The International Commercialization of Micro and Nanosystems Conference 2004 is in its ninth year having previously been held at Banff, Canada; Kona, Hawaii; San Diego, California; Dortmund, Germany; Santa Fe, New Mexico; Oxford, U.K.; Ypsilanti, Michigan; and Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Developed and organized by the Micro and Nanotechnology Commercialization Education Foundation (MANCEF), the purpose of the conference is to provide a forum for the education, dissemination, and sharing of information to assist organizations in their successful introduction of their products and services to the micro and nanosystems market. Topics addressed at the COMS conferences include marketing, manufacturing, management of technology, and capital formation.

Co-sponsors of COMS 2003 included Sandia National Laboratories, Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs, EV Group, IOP Precision Engineering, Region Twente, and MESA+. Media sponsors include Electronic Design Europe, Micro/Nano Newsletter, MST News, R&D Magazine, Semiconductor Manufacturing Magazine, Sensors Magazine, and Wireless Systems Design Magazine.

COMS2003 was organized with the support of: Joe Brown (Suss Microtec), Kees Eijkel (MESA+), Job Elders (C2V), Roger Grace (Roger Grace Associates), Christine Neuy (IVAM), Patric Salomon (4M2C Patric Salomon), David Tolfree (Technopreneur), Henne van Heeren (Enabling M3), and Steve Walsh (University of New Mexico).