



NEWS RELEASE

InterVac-VIDO Opening of world-class vaccine facility celebrated at launch of National Biotechnology Week with Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Premier Brad Wall in attendance

September 16, 2011 (SASKATOON) – As we celebrate National Biotechnology Week, the grand opening of the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization's new International Vaccine Centre (InterVac) is a leading example of how research and development continues to captivate imaginations and showcase Canada's advantage. Canada's bio-economy is significant in scope and continues to drive economic growth in all regions. The Right Honourable Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada, along with Honourable Brad Wall, Premier of Saskatchewan, industry leaders and the broader science community were on hand for the official opening of InterVac earlier today.

"It is wonderful to see the federal and provincial leadership joining industry to showcase Canadian excellence to the world," said Peter Brenders, President and CEO BIOTECCanada. "Biotechnology today is opening new doors for manufacturing, health, forestry and energy production. Canada has a strong history as a leader in world-class vaccine treatments. We look forward to future discoveries and health therapeutics emerging from VIDO-InterVac for this 21st century industry."

This year, National Biotechnology Week runs from September 16 – 23, and is filled with exciting events lectures, facility tours and hands-on science experiments, highlighting the exciting reality diverse science is playing a role in many sectors of our economy. The week, produced in coordination with BIOTECCanada and its national organization partners, includes events for everyone. Popular events include student competitions, facility and company tours meet the experts and leader events and provincial government recognition of the week.

To find out more about what is happening in your area, visit www.imagenation.ca

ABOUT NATIONAL BIOTECHNOLOGY WEEK

Now in its 8th year, National Biotechnology Week directly engages over 5000 people in every region of the country in a national program to inform Canadians and share our biotechnology excellence. Participants can take educational forums, career fairs, tour Canadian biotech companies, meet local politicians, and share with others the value biotechnology offers to our health, our economy, and our future. National Biotechnology Week is possible thanks to the support of AMGEN, Janssen, and Sanofi.

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