

Innovative Solutions and Products Created in Manitoba

\$200,000 in Research Funding for Two New Innovation Proof-of-Concept Grants

October 21, 2021 – Winnipeg, Manitoba. Today Research Manitoba announces \$200,922 in research funding to support two new Innovation Proof-of-Concept Grants. Research Manitoba’s investment leverages \$101,000 and supports Manitoba-based projects in the areas of Bioscience and Advanced Manufacturing.

This research funding will foster research innovation, economic development, and the commercialization of products, through the movement of innovations from ideas to market usability.

“Our government is pleased to partner with Research Manitoba, in order to create jobs and support the development of local businesses,” said **Minister of Economic Development and Jobs Jon Reyes**. “By making investments in important research, we are helping Manitobans create innovative solutions that will help people across this province and beyond.”

“Congratulations to our recent Innovation Proof-of-Concept recipients,” said **Karen Dunlop CEO, Research Manitoba**. “We are proud to promote Manitoba’s economic growth by supporting local academic and industry research and development.”

These innovative projects will enhance and strengthen technology or product maturity towards market usability, encourage research and development that will accelerate technology transfer and commercialization of innovative products, processes, and services, and support talent development and build capacity for translational research in Manitoba.

Recipient for Stream 1: Manitoba-Based Consortium

- **Academic Institution: Red River College Polytechnic**
Industry Partner: Carbon Lock Technologies Inc.

Project Title: The Production of Biocarbon from Organic Waste and its utilization in Sustainable Landfill Management, Wastewater Treatment, Municipal Infrastructure, Carbon Sequestration and New Materials and Manufactured Goods

Research Manitoba: \$101,000

Leveraged funds: \$101,000

Carbon Lock Technologies is a Manitoba-based cleantech company focused on developing technologies for accelerating the long-term sequestration of atmospheric carbon. Its first innovation is a carbonization system for converting organic waste into a stable form of biocarbon that can be permanently sequestered or “locked” in a wide variety of ways. Organic waste is a major problem in Manitoba and by converting this waste into biocarbon, future landfill emissions are reduced while at the same time, a valuable product is created.

Recipient for Stream 2: Manitoba Post-Secondary Researchers

- **Jacob Burgess**, Department of Physics and Astronomy, Faculty of Science, University of Manitoba
Project Title: Digital Fabrication of Low-Cost Sub-Millimeter Wave Optics
Research Manitoba: \$99,922

One of the most rapidly expanding areas of optical technology is applied sub-millimeter wave light. Sub-millimeter wave body scanners are now a common sight at airports, allowing security personnel to detect hidden objects underneath clothing while exposing travellers only to low energy light that does not carry the same risks as X-ray light. The unique properties of sub-millimeter wave light that enable these safer body-scanners also make it an

extraordinarily powerful tool in many other areas ranging from pharmaceutical quality control, health sciences, and communications in the upper atmosphere.

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Research Manitoba:

Research Manitoba promotes, supports, and coordinates the funding of research excellence and innovation in health, natural and social sciences, engineering, and the humanities in Manitoba. [Research Manitoba](#) supports local talent development by providing research support to early career researchers and graduate students, along with fostering strategic partnerships to strengthen research and innovation in Manitoba.

About the Innovation Proof-of-Concept (IPoC) Program:

- **Stream 1: Manitoba-Based Consortium** supports local collaboration that is addressing a company specific discovery or innovation towards market usability. This stream allows academics to use their world-class knowledge, facilities, and highly qualified personnel (HQP) to close the knowledge gaps identified during the industry partner's innovation development. Industry matching funds in the form of cash and in-kind support is required.
- **Stream 2: Manitoba Post-Secondary Researchers** supports the advancement of discoveries or Innovations within an academic setting, which may result in products or technologies, towards market usability. Matching funds are not required for this Stream.