

News Release

FOR RELEASE
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GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT STRENGTHENS LONG-TERM COMPETITIVENESS OF MANITOBA AEROSPACE INDUSTRY

Winnipeg, Manitoba – Today, the Honourable Lynne Yelich, Minister of State for Western Economic Diversification, and the Honourable Andrew Swan, Manitoba Minister of Competitiveness, Training and Trade, announced funding of \$4.2 million to Red River College for specialized equipment at the Centre for Aerospace Technology and Training, helping to ensure Manitoba retains its position in the competitive aerospace industry. Funding of \$3 million is being provided by Western Economic Diversification Canada under the Western Diversification Program, and an additional \$1.2 million is being provided under the Canada-Manitoba Economic Partnership Agreement.

“Our Government wants Manitoba to maintain and expand its position in aerospace markets,” said Minister of State Yelich. “With today’s investment, we are providing the necessary equipment needed so students and industry can begin training, researching and developing key technologies at the Centre.”

“Our government supports the growth of innovation and advanced technology in Manitoba,” said Minister Swan. “We are extremely pleased the funding we are providing will be used to establish a centre for technology and training that will assist in research and providing well trained workers for our provincial aerospace industry.”

Working in consultation with industry representatives, the new Centre will complement existing facilities and ensure the long-term competitiveness of Manitoba’s aerospace sector while promoting local trades training and employment. The Centre will focus on technology research and development in key areas of the aerospace sector and will be the first to make these new technologies available to industry in Canada.

“Red River College plays a vital role in building the Manitoba economy, and this facility will allow us to develop even more advanced training and applied research partnerships to support the growth and stability of the manufacturing sector,” said Dr. Jeff Zabudsky, President of Red River College.

Funding announced today will allow the Centre to purchase specialized equipment, such as advanced laser welding, automated laser cladding and cutting and a hot section coating system. All equipment will be capable of being used for research, teaching and production.

Western Economic Diversification Canada in partnership with the provinces, industry associations, and communities promotes the development and diversification of the western economy, coordinates federal economic activities in the West and represents the interests of western Canadians in national decision-making.

Manitoba's department of Competitiveness, Training and Trade is committed to supporting growth for Manitoba business, meeting provincial labour demands, increasing training opportunities and expanding trade relations around the world.

Red River College of Applied Arts, Science & Technology is Manitoba's largest institute of applied learning with more than 32,000 full-time, part-time, and apprenticeship students. Red River College works closely with industry and employers to ensure graduates have the right skills and knowledge to contribute successfully in the workplace.

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