Guiding innovation

Anumber of valuable government programs and resources have been put in place to encourage engineering innovation. The following websites are a sampling of convenient starting points for exploring these resources:

Canada's Innovation Strategy
www.innovationstrategy.gc.ca

Canada's national Innovation Strategy was launched in 2002. This site contains a wealth of background information on the strategy. Choose "Achieving Excellence" to read about Industry Canada's efforts to encourage our science and research capacity to build a strong, innovative economy. "Browse by Region," on the left menu bar, leads to a number of useful sites. Choose "Ontario" for links to such innovation services as the Canada-Ontario Business Service Centre, Northwestern Ontario Technology Centre, the Product Development and Management Association, and much more.

CIPO: Canadian Patents Database
http://patents1.ic.gc.ca

Patents are a rich, up-to-date, comprehensive source of information on new technologies. Visit CIPO, Canada's national patent database, for free access to over 75 years of patent descriptions and images–in all, over 1.5 million patent documents. Newly granted patents and applications opened to public inspection are added regularly. Before you begin a search, take advantage of the search examples and tips provided by the "Searching" link on the left menu bar. Also on the left, the "Boolean" link provides an easy-to-use form-based search method.

Canadian Innovation Centre
www.innovationcentre.ca

Visit this website to find out how the Canadian Innovation Centre can help you make your innovation market-ready. The centre is non-profit and based in Waterloo, Ontario. Go-to-market squads are led by technology marketing advisors. The advisors specialize in at least one of: biotech-nology, communication, energy, environment, nanotechnology and software. The "Service" link outlines the process of making an innovation market-ready. For more details, go to the bottom of this page and choose either "Technology Centric" or "Enterprise Centric." Returning to the top menu bar, choose "Partners" for a cross-Canada list of other organizations that help new inventors.

Innovation Management Toolkit
http://prodt.businesscanada.gc.ca
/CFDOCS/firm_en/main.html

This Industry Canada site has easy-to-use tools that can help you assess your company's innovation practices and identify potential barriers to success. The toolkit provides an overview of the benefits of innovation, barriers to success, and best practice standards. It also includes an optional firm-level diagnostic, and eight thematic diagnostics that cover a firm's key management areas from leadership and culture to management of technology. To begin, go to the left purple menu bar and choose "Assess Your Capabilities." For more background, choose any topic from the orange menu on the right-hand side of the homepage.

IRAP: Industrial Research
Assistance Program
http://irap-pari.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/

Canadian small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) looking for advice or financial assistance will find valuable details on the National Research Council's program for innovation assistance at this site. The Industrial Research Assistance Program provides Canadian SMEs with value-added technological and business advice, and financial and innovation assistance. On the left, choose "NRC-IRAP Clients" to find out about your eligibility for the program, and to read company success stories. Choose "NRC-IRAP Services" for descriptions of the three types of financial assistance available.

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