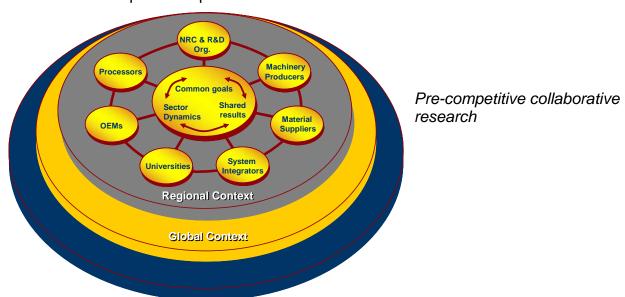


Special Interest Group on Precision Micro-fabrication Technologies

The Precision Micro-fabrication Technologies Special Interest Group was established to help Canadian industry with the state-of-the-art knowledge, facility access and micro fabrication capabilities for the development of novel micro products, components, and Microsystems. Precompetitive research and development projects are defined in collaboration with the members. The generic technologies can then be further customised into specific applications through targeted one-on-one collaborations.

The use of micro products, micro components and their assemblies has been increasing significantly during the past few years. Market surveys predict that the world market will increase from US \$60 billion to \$300 billion by 2025. Products of high growth rate include electronics, sensors, medical devices, automotive and aerospace components.



This proven collaboration model provides a cross-functional technology platform to forge durable relationships with key industrial partners, to maximise the impact through collaborative precompetitive projects and to increase the awareness level in industry and academia. The SIG projects may benefit members in areas of cost reduction, time reduction and quality improvements through:

Improvements in development cycle time:

- Prediction of engineering requirements to launch new products
- · Reduction of problems and ramp-up time



• Improved market response time.

Improvements to products and processes:

- More efficient processes and reduced costs
- Improved quality & product consistency
- Improved robustness and capital utilization.

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