Industrial Research Assistance Program (IRAP)

**Region:
British Columbia and Yukon
Prince George**

Miller Software Consulting

Helping software – and software users – develop

The Prince George Chamber of Commerce named Miller Software Consulting as its Technology Innovator of the Year (2001).

As a computer student at the University of Northern British Columbia in Prince George in the mid-1990s, Daniel Miller first approached a representative of the National Research Council's Industrial Research Assistance Program (IRAP) simply for help with a business course. But the discussion led to a suggestion that he had all the qualifications to found his own computer consultancy. And, when Miller graduated in 1997, he did just that.

Since then, Miller Software Consulting has served dozens of clients in the region, ranging from forestry companies and pulp mills to light manufacturing plants and accountancies. Now employing more than a dozen people, the company helps organizations develop Internet applications and integrate the various components of their information technology systems. Consultants can even carry out contract research projects.

"For example, you may have an idea for a software product, but lack the time and resources to properly investigate it," says Miller. "You can leverage our specialized expertise to research the technical viability of your idea and to develop the product for you."

Navigate the world
of innovation...

For information on IRAP, or to reach an Industrial Technology Advisor (ITA), please contact the IRAP regional office nearest to you. In British Columbia and Yukon, call (604) 221-3100.

Web site:

http://www.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/irap-pari

Miller credits IRAP with helping him get his business off the ground and keep it growing. This experience characterizes the goal of IRAP, which is a key component of a country-wide innovation system linking a diverse network of institutions, organizations and programs to help small and medium-sized enterprises develop and exploit technology in a competitive, knowledge-based economy. The National Research Council is the federal government agency that supports scientific research, development and innovation in every region of Canada.

IRAP has helped Miller expand its market beyond the forestry firm that provided most of the company's earliest business. More recently the firm has made gains in the oil and gas industry, providing software expertise for a partner firm with good contacts in that sector. The impact of this diversification became clear in 2001, when the Prince George Chamber of Commerce named Miller Software Consulting as its Technology Innovator of the Year. ■

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