

# industry

## Innovation Happens in Manitoba

### ACSION INDUSTRIES INC.

**"The most important lesson that I have learned is that the additional cost of bringing really good people to your company is the best investment that you can make. AcSION is so much more valuable today because of the quality and the enthusiasm of the people we have hired over the past five years."**



AcSION purchased a 10-million volt, 4 kilowatt electron accelerator as part of their on-going expansion at their Whiteshell Laboratories location. Western Economic Diversification Canada and the Province of Manitoba each contributed \$375,000 in repayable financial assistance to the total project cost of \$1.5M to purchase, install, and service the

**Chris Saunders**  
President  
AcSION Industries Inc.

**AUGUST, 2002 – PINAWA, MB –** AcSION Industries Inc. was created by a number of former employees of the Radiation Applications Research Branch of Atomic Energy Canada Limited as a result of the decision by AECL to decommission its Whiteshell Laboratories. The company was incorporated in January, 1998 under the Manitoba Corporations Act. Later that year, the company signed an Asset Purchase Agreement and a License Agreement with AECL.

AcSION is the acknowledged world leader in electron beam (EB) technology and the only company in North America providing all of the needed expertise and equipment in a single location to develop EB-based products. The company provides three distinct EB technology services to their customers - consulting, processing research and partnership opportunities to commercialize products and processes produced jointly with customers. AcSION began with 5 employees and currently has 20 full time and 10 contract employees.

AcSION maintains a firm commitment to Quality Assurance based on the principles outlined in ISO 9001, SAE AS9100, the Canadian Aviation Regulations and the 6MPs. All aspects of the safety, testing, and operations at AcSION Industries Inc. are controlled by a series of Standard Operating Procedures and Job Instructions.

accelerator. On November 7, 2001, AcSION received a routine operating license from the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission for the new accelerator which gave AcSION advanced capabilities for EB processing for an array of goods and materials, most notably advanced composite parts for the aerospace industry.

In August 2001, AcSION and Air Canada joined forces to create ACETEK Composites, an aircraft repair and manufacturing company located in Winnipeg. The impact of the innovation has been significant. The company's joint-venture with Air Canada, ACETEK Composites, and the creation of 270 high-tech aerospace jobs in Manitoba over the next two years, would not have been possible without the purchase of this specialized, highly technical equipment.

Chris Saunders, President, AcSION Industries Inc. states "AcSION is committed to innovation through technology, research and development, and commercialization. By working with the Government of Canada, the Province of Manitoba, AECL and the Industrial Research Assistance Program, our company was able to become the world leader in EB technologies."

In 2001, AcSION Industries Inc. was named as the top emerging small business by the Manitoba Chamber of Commerce.

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