



PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Small Business Internship Program \$3.5 million to help businesses keep up with the rapid increase in the e-commerce use

(Salaberry-de-Valleyfield, June 20th, 2011) - The *SADC du Suroît-Sud* and the *Réseau des SADC et CAE du Québec* are pleased to announce that *Industry Canada* has renewed its investment of \$3.5 million to create hundreds of internships for post-secondary students through Canada's Small Business Internship Program (SBIP) for 2011-2012. This initiative is a collaborative effort between small businesses, post-secondary institutions and non-government organizations.

The SBIP helps small and medium-sized enterprises across Quebec to improve their productivity and competitiveness with information and communications technology projects. Specifically, it provides businesses with funding to hire a student (between 15 to 30 years old), for a 12 weeks hands-on job experience (420 hours). The program will reimburse 75 % of eligible costs, up to a maximum of \$10,000.

The SBIP creates opportunities for post-secondary students by providing them with experience working on e-commerce projects with successful businesses and by encouraging their entrepreneurial spirit.

The electronics industry: a reality

The Status of Quebec electronics industry – A 2009 annual report suggests an estimated 1.2 million Quebec adults made online purchases for an amount of \$3.4 billion. In 2008, the penetration rate increased by 33 %, a substantial increase considering, only 12 % of small and medium-sized Quebec businesses offered online purchase possibilities to their customers.

How to participate to the SBIP

Contact your SADC du Suroît-Sud at 450 370-3332 or at www.sadc-suroitsud.org. Small and medium-sized businesses with less than 500 employees are eligible for the SBIP. Accepted projects include: web marketing strategies, search engine optimization, social networking, blogging and mailing lists database collection. The program runs until December 1st, 2011.

The SADC du Suroît-Sud

The SADC du Suroît-Sud offers financing, counselling services and mentorship to local entrepreneurs from the Beauharnois-Salaberry and Haut-Saint-Laurent MRC's.

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