CanETREC Funding Presentation

Presentation to the Thompson Chamber of Commerce April 29, 2009

- Project was first explored in 2002 with the City of Thompson taking the lead. A study was commissioned that initially surveyed 150 sites. 150 sites .. 50 … 5 sites were selected and fully analyzed by developing a business case. The City of Thompson emerged as the site selected to host this facility in part due to affordable and available hydro, the infrastructure of Thompson including the hospital, paved all-season road, rail and air service, access to water, hospital, RD Parker aviation program, possible link to UCN, the developed local business community, and already having an emerging cluster of real world winter weather automotive testers testing here.

- In 2006, Thompson Unlimited took over and included organizing a special Industry Days event that brought together experts in the aerospace industry to Thompson to further discuss testing needs in this industry. TU has assisted this project by providing information, hosting site visits and tours, marshalling political support, etc. Work behind the scenes . . . .

- At this point in time, this project will be divided into 2 phases . . . $44m and $38M. Time is of the essence – 18 mos before the first engine will be tested, and tentatively it'll be a 10 ft diameter engine for the new Airbus 350. 20 year design life with possibility of upward expansion depending upon evolving testing needs of the industry. Facility will be used 4 seasons per year. Alternative fuels and lubricants, noise reduction, noxious emissions reductions and icing certification of gas turbine technology for safety are foci. State of the

art technology for the tech. transfer of the next generation of jet engines.

- This is a big opportunity for Thompson, N. MB and Western Canada. Kinds of testing – water, hair and bird ingestions, icing certification, performance testing, and thrust/reverse testing. This facility will put Thompson on the global map as a centre for aerospace testing and the aviation industry. This feeds in well with our strategy of auto, off-road and heavy equipment winter weather testing.

- A focus for this facility and the testing is the environment. Driving this project forward will be people, and the investment made in this facility will provide opportunities for educational institutions including UCN to offer unique education and training for northern and aboriginal people. The construction, operation and maintenance of this facility are going to provide a wide economic impact to Thompson, northern Manitoba and Western Canada benefiting contractors, hotels, ground and air transportation firms, restaurants, rental car businesses, retailers, and cleaning, maintenance and security businesses.

- Pratt & Whitney, and Rolls Royce are global players in the aerospace industry. The CanETREC facility and Thompson will be the first of its kind in the world to have this type of advanced information technology and accompanying infrastructure to support innovative testing, along with icing certification. Thompson will become known around the world as the location for advanced aerospace testing and will attract engineers, scientists, students, and many others from around the globe. Thompson Unlimited, the City of Thompson's Economic Development Corporation, will assist the leadership of

this facility to ensure it remains world-class for decades to come. Further, Thompson Unlimited's vision of diversifying our community in partnership with stakeholders will continue their work toward developing Thompson as a global Center of Excellence for Real World Winter Weather Testing.

- The Province of Manitoba played a formative role in this project. Vale Inco also, and has demonstrated their commitment to Thompson. Western Economic Development has contributed significantly. Pratt & Whitney, Rolls Royce and MDS Aero Support are pioneering the next generation of jet engines in partnership with the National Research Council of Canada. The Local Government District of Mystery Lake, the City of Thompson and Thompson Unlimited have also been partners in this project. I want to also acknowledge the work done by Bruce Krentz when he was with TU too. Given the economic times we have found ourselves in and the unprecedented collaboration of the jet engine manufacturers in the ownership and close cooperation with the National Research Council of Canada in this facility, it is significant to see the partnerships formed and the work accomplished to see this project come to fruition. Just think, in the future, take assurance that a plane you might be flying in or the vehicle you are driving, may have been winter weather tested in Thompson, Manitoba.