



**Power, Partnership, Performance: Supporting Canadian research excellence:** SHARCNET awards \$2.6M in research grants, attracts world-renowned researchers to Canada

On Friday January 23, The Shared Hierarchical Academic Research Computing Network (SHARCNET) celebrated the awarding of over \$2.6M in research fellowships to over 120 outstanding Canadian researchers, and the appointment of 12 new research Chairs, 6 of which were attracted to Canada because of SHARCNET.

HP Canada President Paul Tsaparis, the event's keynote speaker, joined SHARCNET in celebrating the success of the two programs, which together equal an investment of over \$5M in opportunities for Canadian researchers.

"As a Canadian company, HP values the creation of SHARCNET Chairs and Fellowships that will continue to underpin meaningful Canadian research and innovation," said Tsaparis. "HP is proud to be the premier business partner of SHARCNET – an internationally recognized leader in the provision of high performance technical computing resources and programs."

Since 2001, the Chairs program has attracted international high performance computing (HPC) experts from Germany, France, the US, and Mexico, as well as from within Canadian academic and industrial communities, to SHARCNET partner institutions.

"SHARCNET's leading-edge facilities, programs and services are a powerful attraction for international researchers; they were instrumental in my decision to join the Physics and Astronomy Department at McMaster," confirmed Dr. Erik Sorensen, a Professor and SHARCNET Chair of Computational Materials.

Sorensen was attracted to Canada from Université Paul Sabatier in Toulouse France in 2001.

Although SHARCNET was only officially established in June of 2001, the HPC network has grown from 7 to 11 partner institutions, encompassing 200 national and international research groups.

"Both programs are representative of the resounding success that we have experienced in just over 2 years of operation. SHARCNET is accelerating the pace and strengthening the calibre of research in Ontario and in Canada," confirmed Dr. Nils Petersen, Chair of the SHARCNET Board of Directors and VP Research at The University of Western Ontario.

Dr. Gordon Drake, Chair of Physics at the University of Windsor and recipient of 4 SHARCNET Fellowships agreed.

"SHARCNET is really creating interesting new opportunities for the development and expansion of research capabilities. It is revitalizing the Canadian research community."



Event details:

The Great Hall  
The University of Western Ontario  
11:00am – 12:00pm (program)  
12:00pm – 2:00pm (reception and poster session)  
Full program available at [www.sharcnet.ca](http://www.sharcnet.ca)

**For more information on the SHARCNET Chairs and Fellowships Program, please contact:**

**Dr. Nils Petersen, Chair of SHARCNET Board**  
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## **BACKGROUND**

### **About SHARCNET ([www.sharcnet.ca](http://www.sharcnet.ca))**

The Shared Hierarchical Academic Research Computing Network (SHARCNET) is a high performance computing (HPC) facility, which promotes excellence in research and accelerates the production of research results in the natural and social sciences, engineering and business; results which are of benefit to the Canadian economy, the environment, our health and our general welfare.

Formally established in June 2001, SHARCNET consists of a consortium of 11 leading academic institutions across South Central Ontario. The consortium is led by the University of Western Ontario, and includes the Universities of Guelph, McMaster, Wilfrid Laurier, Windsor, Waterloo, Brock, Ontario Institute of Technology and York, and colleges Fanshawe and Sheridan.

SHARCNET is founded on academic-industrial collaboration. Its industrial partners include Hewlett Packard, Platform Computing, Bell Canada, Nortel Networks, Quadrics Ltd, and the Optical Regional Advanced Network of Ontario (ORANO).

SHARCNET is generously supported by the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI), Ontario Innovation Trust (OIT), Ontario Research and Development Challenge Fund (ORDCF), as well as by its institutional members and industrial partners.

### **About the Canada Foundation for Innovation ([www.innovation.ca](http://www.innovation.ca))**

The CFI is an independent corporation established by the Government of Canada in 1997 to strengthen the capacity of Canadian universities, colleges, research hospitals, and other non-profit research organizations to carry out world-class research and technology development.

### **About the Ontario Research and Development Challenge Fund ([www.ontariochallengefund.com](http://www.ontariochallengefund.com))**

Created by the Ontario government, the Ontario Research and Development Challenge Fund promotes world-class research of interest to the private sector; encourages collaboration between the private sector and research institutions; attracts and retains top scientists and enables talented young scientists to pursue their research interests; and helps Ontario's research institutions build their R&D capacity, so they are able to obtain funding from other sources.

### **About the Ontario Innovation Trust ([www.oit.on.ca](http://www.oit.on.ca))**

Established by the Ontario government, the Ontario Innovation Trust is assisting the province's universities, hospitals, colleges and other non-profit research organizations to carry out scientific research and technology development by enhancing the infrastructure needed for research. To date, the Trust has announced investments of more than \$682.2 million to support 925 research projects.