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NEWS RELEASE

RIÉ AND CRIQ PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR THE ELECTRONIC INDUSTRY

MONTRÉAL, FEBRUARY 21, 2007 — During the annual symposium of the Regroupement de l'industrie électronique (RIÉ), held on January 30, 2007, RIÉ and the Centre de recherche industrielle du Québec (CRIQ) officially signed an exclusive commercialization licence for a standard circuit design developed for the electronic industry.

As pointed out by Richard Tremblay, director of testing at CRIQ, “This agreement is the result of an R&D project undertaken over a year ago and which has enabled CRIQ, in conjunction with RIÉ and 15 private companies, to develop and perfect a standard circuit for validating lead-free replacement solder. The project has resulted in this technical innovation, for which CRIQ has applied for a patent.”

This project, supported by the Ministère du Développement économique, de l'Innovation et de l'Exportation (MDEIE) and completed last December, made it possible to develop a generic tool to help businesses in the electronic industry assess the reliability of lead-free replacement solder.

The new European Restriction of Hazardous Substances Directive (RoHS), adopted by an increasing number of countries on several continents, aims to protect the environment by making it mandatory for manufacturers to significantly limit the use of certain hazardous substances, such as lead, in the solder of electronic circuit assemblies. However, the use of new alloys and manufacturing processes has prompted concerns as to the reliability of these electronic circuits.

Given the situation, CRIQ has granted a commercialization licence for the standard circuit design to RIÉ, which will promote it to the electronic industry.

“This new agreement between RIÉ and CRIQ is part of a partnership that was forged between the two organizations a few years ago,” said Mireille Jean, president of RIÉ. The CRIQ/RIÉ partnership has now been solidified with the signing of a first licence. RIÉ intends to make this innovation available to Québec industry members. “In addition to providing tools to our industry members, Québec is showing leadership by supporting businesses so they can comply with environmental standards. It will give our companies a clear strategic advantage,” concluded Mireille Jean.

In this day and age, with knowledge an invaluable asset, this innovation provides Québec businesses with a competitive edge. There is no doubt about it; this is a major new strategic tool for the Québec industry.

RIÉ and CRIQ believe this work clearly shows the importance, and the necessity, of pooling the industry's strengths in order for Québec to prosper on national and international arenas.



© Photo : Marc Gibert / adecom.ca
Mr. Richard Tremblay, director of testing at CRIQ
Ms. Mireille Jean, president of RIÉ

- 30 -

About the Regroupement de l'industrie électronique (RIÉ)

Founded in 2000, RIÉ was the brainchild of electronic industry leaders. Its mission is to provide a meeting platform that fosters discussion and business opportunities in a friendly environment tailored to meet the needs of workers and businesses in Québec's electronic industry. Concretely, RIÉ acts as a bridge that connects human resources, the world of education and the job market, and is the voice of its members for dealings with government authorities. What makes RIÉ original is that it is mandatory for its members to be actively involved in the affairs of the association to ensure it specifically addresses industry concerns.

About CRIQ

CRIQ was created in 1969 by the Québec government to help Québec businesses boost their productivity and competitiveness through technological innovation. CRIQ's clients can count on the support of 260 employees, two laboratories – one in Montréal and the other in Québec City – where experts carry out over 850 projects every year for over 700 manufacturing companies of all sizes and from all parts of Québec.

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