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PRIMA Québec Announces Agreement to Support Collaborative Research Between Groupe RSL and Plasmionique

Montreal, July 14, 2021 - The Quebec government will provide \$325,177 in financial assistance through Investissement Québec, in collaboration with Quebec's Minister of the Economy and Innovation, to Groupe RSL and Plasmionique, who will work together to accelerate innovation and development in room-temperature quantum technology applications via nitrogen-doped diamond synthesis technologies and processes. With a total value of \$1,498,088, this innovative initiative will benefit a range of industries, including advanced electronics, medical technology, telecommunications and transportation.

"Our government is actively supporting initiatives to promote Quebec's creativity and expertise in leading-edge sectors," said Marie-Chantal Chassé, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of the Economy and Innovation (Innovation and Entrepreneurship). This collaborative project between Groupe RSL and Plasmionique will position Quebec at the forefront of quantum technologies. It will promote innovation and synergy between industry and research and help stimulate the recovery."

"Diamond is a unique substance with the potential to revolutionize tomorrow's global technology landscape," said Samuel G. Labelle, Chief Operating Officer at Groupe RSL Inc. "Working through Investissement Québec and PRIMA Québec, the government's contribution will help us achieve our goal of establishing the first quantum diamond production facility in Canada while helping to solidify Quebec's leadership in the field of quantum research. To name only a few of the applications targeted by our technology, quantum diamonds hold tremendous potential for biological imaging, cell temperature measurements, magnetic field detection, secure communication, along with the creation of biological sensors and those used in autonomous vehicles, among many others."

"Thanks to this project and the assistance provided by the Quebec government, we are delighted to see that our technology will lay the groundwork for the first industrial base of its kind in Quebec and Canada for the production of diamonds using green technologies, not mining operations," said Andranik Sarkissian, President and Chief Technology Officer at Plasmionique Inc. "Pure and doped diamond represents the base material when using room-temperature quantum technology for a variety of applications."

The project is supported by PRIMA Québec and is designed to create and develop Quebec-based expertise in key quantum technology sectors. "A number of quantum technologies, like quantum sensors, quantum computers, and communication repeaters, operate using nitrogen-doped diamonds, which are quantum materials," said Marie-Pierre Ippersiel, President and CEO at PRIMA Québec. "Very few companies in the world produce them; this will help propel Quebec's expertise in the production of quantum materials and their appropriate systems."

The financial assistance provided by the Quebec government through Investissement Québec will support Groupe RSL and Plasmionique when developing technologies and processes for the manufacture of nitrogen-doped diamonds that are more environmentally friendly when compared to diamonds from the mining sector. This collaborative research project will help them train a qualified workforce for the future and penetrate markets that include advanced electronics and hypersensitive sensors. It will also give them a clear competitive edge over foreign companies.

About Groupe RSL Inc.

Groupe RSL Inc. was established to advance and commercialize CVD diamond applications. We intend to build the first CVD diamond manufacturing facility focused on advanced applications in Canada. Our planned state-of-the-art facility will be completely carbon neutral, producing diamond using renewable energy directly from the grid.

About Plasmionique

PLASMIONIQUE Inc. was incorporated in Quebec, Canada in 1999. Our mission is to proliferate and commercialize plasma technology as an environmentally clean substitute for many challenging problems in Advanced Surface Engineering, Material Synthesis, and Thin Film Processing. Plasmionique's R&D is related to the development of environmentally friendly Advanced Surface Engineering Processes related to a variety of applications, including Biomaterials, Surface Modification, Hydrophobicity and Nanomaterials Synthesis.

About PRIMA Québec

PRIMA Québec is an advanced materials research and innovation hub that supports and promotes the advanced materials ecosystem and acts as an engine of innovation and growth in Quebec. Through support and funding, it stimulates the competitiveness of Quebec companies by facilitating access to research expertise. As a Sectoral Industrial Research Group (SIRG), PRIMA Québec relies on financial support from both the Quebec government and the private sector when promoting research/industry relations.

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