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TRIUMF Team Welcomes Isotope Investment

(Vancouver, BC) --- The CycloTech99 consortium welcomes the investment by Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) through the Isotope Technology Acceleration Program (ITAP) and our partners in provinces, universities, and industry. These funds represent a continued investment from NRCan resulting from our earlier efforts during the Non-reactor-based Isotope Supply Contribution Program (NISP).

As announced in February 2012, CycloTech99 has demonstrated the capability to produce the world's most popular medical isotope, technetium-99m, on medical cyclotrons already installed in Ontario and British Columbia. Our solution in ITAP includes regulatory approval and commercial roll out for a truly national technetium production solution for the benefit of all Canadians, by securing medical isotopes for our patients when the NRU reactor in Chalk River ceases production in 2016. We have a clear pathway to address and stabilize this gap.

Principal investigator Paul Schaffer leads the team and is head of TRIUMF's Nuclear Medicine Division. He said, "The federal government has invested in our team to deliver an innovation for the benefit of all Canadians. We look forward to delivering a domestic solution to the medical isotope crisis in the near future."

"The Harper Government is working to find new ways of producing medical isotopes for the diagnosis of heart disease and cancer in Canadians," said the Honourable Joe Oliver, Canada's Minister of Natural Resources. "The project with TRIUMF is designed to enable medical centres across Canada to produce their own key isotopes for local patients."

The CycloTech99 consortium consists of the BC Cancer Agency, the Centre for Probe Development and Commercialization, Lawson Health Research Institute, and TRIUMF. Several industrial partners are also involved and are developing commercialization pathways consistent with the program objectives.

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About the BC Cancer Agency

The BC Cancer Agency, an agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority, is committed to reducing the incidence of cancer, reducing the mortality from cancer, and improving the quality of life of those living with cancer. It provides a comprehensive cancer control program for the people of British Columbia by working with community partners to deliver a range of oncology services, including prevention, early detection, diagnosis and treatment, research, education, supportive care, rehabilitation and palliative care. The BC Cancer Foundation raises funds to support research and enhancements to patient care at the BC Cancer Agency.

About Lawson Health Research Institute

Lawson Health Research Institute, located in London, Ontario, is one of Canada's largest and most respected hospital-based research institutes. As the research arm of London Health Sciences Centre and St. Joseph's Health Care, London, and working in partnership with The University of Western Ontario, Lawson is committed to furthering scientific knowledge to advance health care around the world. Its state-of-the-art, 6,000 sq. ft. Cyclotron & PET Radiochemistry Facility opened on March 31, 2010 and includes a GE PETtrace 880 cyclotron with proton and deuteron acceleration capability, class 100 shielded hot cells, and automated chemistry units for producing F-18 and C-11 radiopharmaceuticals – all to GMP specifications.

About the Centre for Probe Development and Commercialization

The Centre for Probe Development and Commercialization discovers, develops and distributes molecular imaging probes for the early diagnosis of diseases and to assess the effectiveness of treatments. An important part of Ontario's health system, CPDC provides a reliable, daily supply of imaging probes to hospitals across the province. CPDC also works collaboratively with industry and academic partners, offering the research, manufacturing and regulatory expertise needed to move innovative probe technology and new therapeutic drugs from R&D labs to clinical use. CPDC, located on the McMaster University Campus, is a Centre of Excellence for Commercialization and Research, part of the Networks of Centres of Excellence Program. It is supported by the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research, GE Healthcare, Cancer Care Ontario, and McMaster University.

About TRIUMF

Located on the southern tip of the UBC campus, **TRIUMF** is a unique scientific facility in Canada. Owned and operated by 11 full-member and 6 associate-member Canadian universities, TRIUMF is one of the world's leading subatomic physics laboratories and has been a scientific driver in Canada for over 40 years. In addition to subatomic physics, TRIUMF has also been able to bring together interdisciplinary talent, sophisticated technical resources and commercial partners in a way that has not only established the laboratory as a global model of success, but has allowed the laboratory to extend its scientific reach beyond physics to other synergistic disciplines such as nuclear medicine. TRIUMF is owned and operated as a joint venture via a contribution through the National Research Council Canada with capital building funds provided by the Government of British Columbia. One of TRIUMF's primary mandates is to discover solutions to address the most compelling questions in particle physics, nuclear physics, nuclear medicine, and materials science for the benefit of all Canadians. For more about TRIUMF, visit www.triumf.ca.