

February 15, 2018

Ocean Supercluster good news for province

Creating jobs for Islanders

Montague, Prince Edward Island – Island marine technology company Aspin Kemp and Associates sees great opportunities in the federal government’s approval today (February 15) of an Ocean Supercluster based in Atlantic Canada.

The Ocean Supercluster is one of five Innovation Superclusters announced in Ottawa by the federal minister of Innovation, Science and Technology, Hon. Navdeep Bains. Each supercluster is business-led and designed to align innovative industries, researchers and intermediary institutions to help develop world-leading regional innovation ecosystems.

“For over a year, we have been working with the various partners in Atlantic Canada to put forward the proposal, and seeing the award today places the necessary resources behind that vision,” said Jason Aspin, co-founder and CEO of Aspin Kemp and Associates. “As a member and contributor, we are looking forward to the proposed projects taking shape and the growth of the marine industry in this region. We look forward to continuing to deliver innovative solutions from our corporate base in PEI and collaborating with our local and global partners.”

The Innovation Superclusters Initiative allocates high-value, strategic investments of up to \$950 million in the form of non-repayable contributions to industry-led consortia.

Specifically, the goal of the Ocean Supercluster is to showcase the technological and innovation capacity to increase the economic impact of one of the country’s greatest underdeveloped resources - our oceans. It aims to strengthen the industry through technological innovation and research in areas like marine renewable, fisheries, aquaculture, shipbuilding and other industry sectors.

The final details on exactly how much funding will be provided to the Ocean Supercluster have not yet been announced. The expected economic impact over 10 years for this cluster is more than \$14 billion and 3,000 new jobs.

“This is tremendous news for our province and the marine science and technology companies that call Prince Edward Island and the Atlantic region home,” Economic Development and Tourism Minister Chris Palmer said. “It will also be beneficial to our post secondary institutions by providing funding for important research and development activities aimed at spurring innovation in these industries.”

The Ocean Supercluster is a national undertaking, with investment from companies across Canada, partnerships with post-secondary institutions, indigenous groups, and international partners. The partnership spans fisheries, aquaculture, oil and gas, marine bio products, transportation, defence, marine renewables, and ocean technology. Companies are collaborating to define a shared innovation roadmap based on common challenges and requirements.

Prince Edward Island is also connected to another Supercluster announced for approval today in the Prairies. The Protein Industries Supercluster, based in the Prairies, aims to increase the value of Canadian crops and to respond to growing markets for plant based meat alternatives. The technology focus is on agri-food enabling technologies, including genomics, processing, and information technology. The Food Island Partnership is listed as a partner in this Supercluster.

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