

Saskatoon Company Witnesses Benefits of Workplace Learning Centre Project

SASKATOON – (April 7, 2008) – Vecima Networks, a local electronic manufacturing company employing over 850 people, has taken the philosophy of “growing your own” to a new level. Over recent months, they have collaborated with Radius Community Centre, READ Saskatoon and the Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour through Canada-Saskatchewan Career & Employment Services, to address their employee recruitment, retention and advancement issues.

Today, with funding from Career and Employment Services, these organizations are piloting a workplace learning centre. A full-time coordinator, hired and supervised by Radius Community Centre, delivers workshops to all new employees on both day and evening shifts. This training program is a series of workshops designed to promote a healthy work environment and is directed at personal development in the workplace. One part-time literacy coordinator hired and supervised by READ Saskatoon uses her experience in adult and family literacy to provide workshops and direct learning opportunities that address the holistic needs of the employees. The drop-in centre allows employees, during off-hours, access to READ Saskatoon tutors and for the development of individual learning and training plans for employee advancement.

This new, innovative and creative literacy and employability pilot project brings together business, government and community organizations. All the key stakeholders are excited at the dynamic partnership that has occurred. Hugh Wood, COO of Vecima says, “In addition to the direct benefit to Vecima Networks, this prototype can be transferred and made available to other Saskatchewan businesses. We hope to demonstrate the resourcefulness that can occur when business and community-based organizations share their strengths.”

When Vecima recognized the need for skill enhancement, they sought out the resources of the third sector, namely READ Saskatoon and Radius Community strong Centre. Dorothy Sawatsky, Executive Director of Radius Community Centre says, “Our organizations have over 60 years combined experience in developing, implementing and evaluating programs and services. We have worked hard to build a reputation for quality services in the areas of literacy and employment training. READ Saskatoon and Radius Community Centre are pleased that the business community recognizes this expertise and are mindful of what role we can play in supporting their workplace and employees.”

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Sheryl Harrow, Director of READ Saskatoon says, "In Saskatchewan, 85,000 workers at Canada's basic literacy levels, are concentrated in five industries, which represent more than 60% of the workers in Saskatchewan." The five industries are:

- Commerce
- Agriculture
- Accommodation and food services
- Manufacturing
- Health care and social assistance

Harrow continues to say, "Lots of people struggle with literacy and we hope this project creates dialogue about how community groups and business can work together; we believe it is a shared responsibility. Together we can create opportunities so Saskatchewan individuals and families can function better and prosper with confidence."

About Vecima Networks

Vecima Networks Inc. (TSX:VCM) designs, manufactures and sells products that enable broadband access to cable, wireless and telephony networks. Vecima's hardware products incorporate original embedded software to meet the complex requirements of next-generation, high-speed digital networks. Service providers use Vecima's solutions to deliver services to a converging worldwide broadband market, including what are commonly known as "triple play" (voice, video and data) and "quadruple play" (voice, video, data and wireless) services. Vecima's solutions allow service providers to rapidly and cost-effectively bridge the final network segment that connects the system directly to end users, commonly referred to as "the last mile," by overcoming the bottleneck resulting from insufficient carrying capacity in legacy, last mile infrastructures. Vecima's products are directed at two principal markets: Converged Wired Solutions and Broadband Wireless. The Company has also developed, and continues to focus on developing, products to address emerging markets such as Voice over Internet Protocol, fibre to the home and IP video. www.vecima.com

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