

Montréal in Action

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Farnborough International Airshow a fruitful trip for Greater Montréal firms

A number of Greater Montréal aerospace firms announced new projects and signed new contracts at the Farnborough Airshow.



► CSeries: 1,600 jobs to be created

Bombardier announced at the show that it is going ahead with its CSeries aircraft. The Bombardier plant in the Saint-Laurent borough

and its Product Development Centre are expected to employ 1,600 workers.

► CAE lands \$128 M in contracts

Etihad Airways, British Airways, Bombardier and Embraer have all ordered flight simulators from CAE. The Montréal firm also signed a \$78 M contract extension with the Australian Defence Forces.

► Héroux-Devtek picks up two contracts with Embraer and Bell Helicopter Textron.

► CMC Electronics wins two contracts for C-130Js with Lockheed Martin.

► LISI Aeronautics Canada announces a \$10 M expansion plan and creates 150 jobs.

Tax incentives for R&D: Montréal ranks first internationally

According to KPMG, Montréal ranks first internationally in terms of R&D tax incentives. The study looking at business operating costs around the globe places Canada third among the 10 countries with the lightest business tax burden.

\$800 M green project to go ahead on Nuns' Island

Promont Corporation has launched a new project on Nuns' Island near the Champlain Bridge. The Pointe Nord development will include 1,600 affordable residential units and calls for \$800 M in investment. The project will also include 30 businesses and a few offices, along with a landscaped 150,000 ft² waterfront property. Work is scheduled to begin in fall 2009.

GLV brings home over \$67 M in contracts

According to *La Presse*, GLV has announced that its Water Treatment Group has won over \$67 M in contracts in recent weeks. These new contracts are largely in the industrial sector in the Middle East, Australia, New Zealand, the United States, Eastern Europe and New Caledonia.

Ubisoft acquires Hybride Technologies

The acquisition of Hybride Technologies will allow Ubisoft to develop video games that are as realistic as films and to prepare for the next generation of video game consoles. It will also enable Ubisoft to transfer characters from its video games to movie screens.

Institute of Cultural Affairs International (ICAI) moves from Brussels to Montréal

The Secretariat represents some sixty organizations dedicated to sustainable development and human rights. Its headquarters has five staff members.

Two Montréal buildings win a prestigious award

The Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec building and Complexe Desjardins recently won the prestigious BOMA award from the Building Owners and Managers Association. This is the first time in 20 years that a Quebec building has won one of these awards.

World Monopoly: Montréal replaces "Boardwalk"

Montréal will occupy the most expensive property on the new world version of the Monopoly board game. Earlier in 2008, people were invited to vote on-line for 22 out of a list of 70 cities to appear on the board of the first-ever world edition of Monopoly.

The Quartier des spectacles takes shape

The new models for the planned square in the Quartier des spectacles were unveiled recently. At the event, it was confirmed that the first phase in the Quartier des spectacles project will be completed on schedule, by June 2009, for the 30th anniversary of the Festival international de jazz.

► **New home for the MSO designed by renowned acoustician Russell Johnson**

Mr. Johnson completed the design for the new Montréal concert hall before he died, one year ago. The founder and CEO of Artec, a New York firm, was famous for having transformed the principle of the variable geometry resonance system. Among his best-known “masterpieces” are concert halls in Dallas, Birmingham, São Paulo and Singapore.

► **Place des Arts lobby to be upgraded**

Thanks to a \$12 M investment, the lobby (containing the entrances to the different Place des Arts performance halls) will be completely transformed into a large cultural space with areas for various activities, exhibitions and performances.

PROGRESS ON PROJECTS AND CONSTRUCTION SITES

Montréal Technopole: CFI awards \$100 M toward the construction of the new MUHC Research Institute

The Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) has announced that it will be contributing \$100 M to build and equip new facilities for the McGill University Health Centre Research Institute. The new facilities are to be built as part of the MUHC move to the Glen Campus, a public-private partnership project.

New \$60 M commercial and residential project in Old Montréal

The project is slated for rue Notre-Dame Ouest, on the current site of a parking lot. It will be integrated with the Aldred Building, at 501 Place d'Armes, the side façade of which is located at 65, rue Notre-Dame Ouest. The project submitted to the Ville-Marie borough includes some 115 residential units and underground parking for 295 vehicles, half of them to be used for commercial purposes.

Ville de Montréal invests \$19.3 M to revitalize the Acadie-Chabanel sector

\$19.3 M will be invested in revitalizing the Acadie-Chabanel sector, an important hub of the city's development, by upgrading rue Chabanel and extending rue Jean-Pratt. The work on Chabanel, between boulevard Saint-Laurent and rue Meilleur, is intended to transform the street into a real neighbourhood.

A Waldorf-Astoria hotel in Montréal in 2011

The Hilton hotel chain will be opening a hotel under its deluxe Waldorf-Astoria Collection banner in Montréal in 2011, a US\$200 M investment. The 32-storey hotel will have 250 rooms and 76 residences, along with 15,000 ft² of ballroom, meeting, restaurant, lounge and exercise facilities. It will be the first Waldorf-Astoria hotel in Canada. The Waldorf-Astoria Montréal will be located at 1500, rue Sherbrooke Ouest, near Guy.

Studies launched to replace the Champlain Bridge

The federal government has ordered the necessary studies to build a new bridge between Montréal and the South Shore. The most recent reports submitted to the Minister by the Federal Bridge Corporation show that it will be less costly to build a new bridge than to keep repairing the current structure.