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Harper Government Helps to Kick Start Canadian Entrepreneurial Businesses in Great Village

For immediate release

GREAT VILLAGE, Nova Scotia, February 3, 2012 – Scott Armstrong, Member of Parliament (Cumberland Colchester Musquodoboit Valley), on behalf of the Honourable Rona Ambrose, Minister of Public Works and Government Services and Minister for Status of Women, today announced the Government of Canada's pre-qualification for Instrument Concepts Inc.'s new innovation, *icListen*, through the second round of the Canadian Innovation Commercialization Program (CICP). Through this pilot program, the Government of Canada is helping Canadian businesses get their innovative products and services from the lab to the marketplace.

"Our government is focused on creating conditions to promote jobs and economic growth," said Minister Ambrose. "That is why we're committed to supporting Canadian entrepreneurs who help to keep the Canadian economy moving."

"Supporting Canada's economy is our number one priority, and today's announcement is great news for the workers at Instrument Concepts Inc.," said MP Armstrong. "Our Government is putting its support behind their innovation designed right here in Great Village and bringing them one step closer in moving their innovations into domestic and international markets."

Instrument Concepts Inc.'s innovation, *icListen* is a "smart" hydrophone that can listen for, detect and notify border security personnel of any boat activity by being trained to listen for specific sounds in a marine environment.

"We are pleased that Instrument Concepts has been awarded this opportunity to demonstrate home-grown Canadian innovation. This will help drive the growth of our company, and the local economy too," said **Desiree Stockermans, Operations Director, Instrument Concepts Inc.**

The CICP is a \$40-million pilot program launched as part of the Economic Action Plan. Successful companies may see their pre-commercial products and services tested within government operations, and will be given relevant feedback from participating departments.

CICP demonstrates the Government of Canada's commitment to building the jobs and industries of the future by creating the conditions for continued success of industries that are the foundation of Canada's prosperity.

In total, 27 innovations from Canadian companies pre-qualified for funding under the CICP's first round and 36 innovations under the second round.

The CICP is managed by PWGSC's Office of Small and Medium Enterprises, whose mandate is to improve accessibility to government procurement opportunities for small and medium enterprises. Launched as part of the Government of Canada's Budget 2010, the CICP is a new initiative to promote Canada's economic growth.

For the complete list of the successful innovations, please refer to the [backgrounder](#).

For more information, please visit buyandsell.gc.ca/innovation or look for upcoming Calls for Proposals on www.merx.com. You can also contact the CICP team by email at innovation@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca or via the toll-free line at 1-800-811-1148.