

Editorial



Dr. Laurent Bernier
Chairman of the board *

The first decade of the 21st century ended with a worldwide financial crisis of unprecedented proportions, which has had a serious negative impact in most industrial sectors.

Even our petrochemical sector has experienced a major drop in sales, resulting in the closure of hundreds of production sites and the laying off of thousands of skilled workers.

However, the financial crisis was not the sole factor behind this turn for the worse. Heaped on the sluggishness of the financial markets are increasing concerns with respect to the environment, in particular due to climate change, as well as increasing anxiety with regard to the impending exhaustion and hence rising prices of non-renewable energy resources. Environmental concerns are the main reason that large industrial sectors are turning more and more towards sustainable green economy based on the use of renewable materials such as agricultural and forestry biomass.

The 2008 annual report of the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) notes in particular that the new green economy will stimulate invention, innovation and the imagination of engineers and scientists, quite likely to a level not seen since the industrial revolution more than two centuries ago.

The report notes also that dealing with climate change is seen as an opportunity rather than a burden and a path to prosperity rather than a cost factor mitigating profits and employment. In any case, many large industrial leaders now perceive greening as a new wave that will revolutionize the way we behave and consume, not unlike the way the computer and Internet revolutions did at the end of the 20th century.

In the context of globalization, increased competition and rapid technological evolution, industry as a whole is faced with an accelerated transformation. Its future depends very much on basic research and on strong innovation incorporating protection of the environment and a sustainable future. This is especially true in the industrial bioprocess sector.

Thanks to the leadership of the CQVB (*Centre québécois de la valorisation des biotechnologies*) and to the well-thought-out and well-structured plan, not to mention financial support of the MDEIE (*Ministère du Développement économique, de*

In this issue

Editorial	Page 1
General Assembly	Page 2
Our members	Page 3
Organized activities	Page 3
CRIBIQ beyond our borders	Page 3
Research program	Page 4
Upcoming events	Page 4
Messages from our members	Page 5
Want to become a member?	Page 6

l'Innovation et de l'Exportation), the province of Québec is now provided with a new organization to support bio-industrial research and innovation.

The aim of the **CRIBIQ**, an association of industrial research clusters by sector, is to stimulate and finance the development of high-performance novel bioprocesses in Québec, by facilitating collaboration between industrial partners and research establishments such as universities, provincial and federal research institutes and college centers for the transfer of technology.

Already existing in numerous countries around the world, this type of consortium has proven repeatedly its effectiveness as a strategic force in the development of emerging sectors such as bio-plastics and bio-fuels. Our mandate is therefore straightforward: to finance promising projects involving scientific and technological exchanges between Québec industries and cutting-edge research groups and oriented towards commercialization and the creation of wealth.

I thank personally and on behalf of the entire CRIBIQ board of directors, our consortium member sponsors, businesses and research centres for their confidence in our efforts as well as their support, commitment and involvement.

I wish the CRIBIQ a long life, success and prosperity.

* Dr. Bernier is also vice-president R&D at DNP Green Canada

General Assembly of the members

The first annual general assembly of the CRIBIQ was held last December 11 at the Hôtel Clarion in Québec City. This assembly was presided by Mr. Laurent Roger Bernier, chairman of the CRIBIQ board of directors. Consortium rules of a general nature were adopted and new board members were appointed at this assembly.

The new board of directors of the CRIBIQ is as follows:

- **Laurent Roger Bernier**, vice-president R&D at DNP Green Canada
- **Behzad Mahdavi**, head of Lonza Canada
- **Pierre Talbot**, vice-president R&D of Premier Tech
- **Christian Bélanger**, general director, technical services, development and standardization of EnGlobe Corp.
- **Jean-François Côté**, director of strategic development at Soprema
- **Laurent Côté**, vice-president, technological development at the CRIQ (*Centre de recherche industrielle du Québec*)
- **Hervé Bernier**, CEO at Biopierre



Sitting (left to right):

Andréanne Gaudet (MDEIE, observer), Nancy L'Espérance (treasurer), Laurent Roger Bernier (chairman), Mohammed Benyagoub (executive director and secretary) and Laurent Côté (administrator)

Standing (left to right):

Hervé Bernier (administrator), Pierre Talbot (administrator), Behzad Mahdavi (administrator), Christian Bélanger (administrator), Jean-Maurice Plourde (president of the CQVB, observer) and Jean-François Côté (administrator)

Our members

As of December 31, 2009, **46 members** representing industry, universities, research centres, government and private organizations have joined the consortium, thus providing demonstration that the CRIBIQ is a response to real expectations in the Quebec industrial bioprocess development sector. To view the list of our members, visit our [Members page at the CRIBIQ website](#).

Organized activities

Strategic information workshop: Income tax benefits of collaborative research

Organized jointly by the CRIBIQ and the CRPCQ (*Consortium de recherche en plasturgie et composites du Québec*), the strategic information workshops on the topic “Tax benefits associated with collaborative research”, held at Longueuil last December 1 and at St-Nicolas on December 9 surpassed the expectations of the organizers, with a total of 130 participants for both events.

With financial support most notably from [Mallette](#) and [NSERC](#), these workshops provided the opportunity to present the principal programs of funding through grants for researchers and bursaries for graduate students and to explain in detail the advantages associated with collaborative research.

The audience consisted primarily of industry representatives (35%) and people from research institutions (29%), and ninety seven percent of the participants stated that they were satisfied or very satisfied with the workshop.



CRIBIQ beyond our borders

The CRIBIQ has received an invitation from CIT-SINALOA (Centre for Investment and Trade, an organization in the Mexican government in charge of reinforcing Mexico’s presence in the international economy) to visit the Sinaloa agricultural region.

The goal of this trip is to present, during ExpoAgro Sinaloa 2010, the CRIBIQ model and to get to know representatives of businesses and research centres in the region and perhaps visit their installations.

CRIBIQ will be present at this meeting also with the objective of initiating relations with CIT Sinaloa in order to advance the process of facilitating access of CRIBIQ members to the Mexican market.

Research program

First round

Launched on June 22, 2009 in the company of delegates from CRIBIQ member organizations, the competition for the first round of grants was closed at the third meeting of the board of directors last December 11 with the selection of two collaborative research projects following the recommendations of the techno-economic advisory committee. The total contribution of the CRIBIQ to these research projects is around \$400,000, with an equivalent amount being contributed by the participating businesses. Complimentary contributions reached a total of over \$550,000. These collaborative research projects will involve the participation of four industrial partners and six research establishments. See the [list of projects](#) at our website.

Second round

Last December 23, six detailed collaborative research project proposals were tabled before the techno-economic advisory committee. These projects involved a CRIBIQ contribution totalling around \$563,500 and an equivalent contribution from the 11 industrial member participants. These projects also involve the participation of 10 research establishments. The results of the second round will be announced in March of this year on the [CRIBIQ website](#).

Upcoming events

- March 23-24, 2010: Meeting in Rimouski on industrial-scale upgrading and utilization of algae
- April 9, 2010: Web seminar: CRIBIQ networking forum
- April 30, 2010: Launching of the 2010-2011 research program
- May 19, 2010: CRIBIQ annual meeting in Montréal
- June 9, 2010: Oil chemistry meeting in Thetford Mines

*Catch up on our latest
developments at our website :*

www.cribiq.qc.ca

Messages from our members



Soprema always seeks to keep abreast of technological innovations. Most of the raw materials used in the manufacture of our products come from the petroleum industry. We wish to decrease our dependence on fossil materials by identifying alternatives that allow us to obtain the same sealing performance. One practical goal would be to obtain a “green tar” capable of replacing the currently used petroleum-derived version.

Soprema wishes to become a user of biomaterials first and foremost in order to produce effective construction materials. We do not exclude the possibility of examining upstream steps such as biomaterial extraction and processing for entry into our manufacturing activities. For this purpose, a partnership or alliance with suitable specialists is desirable and foreseeable.



Allosteria Pharma Inc. joined the CQIB early this year. Our company directors were looking for first-rate facilities and supporting services. The environment provided by the *Cité de la Biotech* and access to services offered at the INRS experimental biology research centre weighed into our decision. The company also benefited from support by *Univalor*, raising \$17 million worth of financing in the summer of 2009. For more information, please consult the December 2009 [bulletin](#) of the CQIB.



Project leader – specialty bio-products

Answering to the CEO, this position involves developing and managing a portfolio of projects relating to specialty bio-products intended for pharmaceutical, cosmetic or nutraceutical uses. The chosen candidate will be required to maintain productive relations with clients, oversee project logistics, guide project teams and assist his or her immediate supervisor.

Location of the position: **La Pocatière**, Québec

Salary and benefits: based on experience and current salary policy

For additional information, please contact **Eric Bégin**, director of operations.

Electronic communications: eric.begin@biopterre.com

Application deadline: March 26, 2010

Want to become a member?

CRIBIQ members are eligible to apply for all grant funding offered as well as participate in the activities and networking forums organized by the consortium.

Advantages of CRIBIQ membership include:

- Collaborative research
- Risk sharing
- Access to and upgrading of research facilities
- Technology transfer, transfer of knowledge and know-how
- Sharing of strategic information
- Tax benefits
- Financial leverage
- New intellectual property
- Training in industrial research

If you wish to become a member of the CRIBIQ, please fill out the application form below or [join directly on line](#) at our website. You will be invoiced when your completed application has been received.



Catégorie de membres

- Large business : 5 643.75 \$
(5 000 \$ + taxes)
- Small-to-medium-sized business :
1 693.13 \$ (1 500 \$ + taxes)
- University/Research centre :
5 643.75 \$ (5 000 \$ + taxes)
- Université du Québec* and regional
research centres : 2 821.88 \$
(2 500 \$ + taxes)
- Technology transfer centre :
2 821.88 \$ (2 500 \$ + taxes)
- Associate : 564.38 \$ (500 \$ + taxes)

Write your cheque payable to CRIBIQ and
mail it to the attention of Mr. Mohammed
Benyagoub

Name of organization : _____

Name and title of member delegate : _____

Address : _____

E-mail : _____

Phone : _____

Fax : _____

Next bulletin to appear in May 2010