



The Honourable Gary Goodyear, Minister of State for Science and Technology, (left) examines transgenic seedlings during his tour of PlantForm's greenhouse facility at the University of Guelph Feb. 21. With the Minister are Dr. Don Stewart, PlantForm President and CEO; Frank Valeriote, Member of Parliament (Guelph); and Dr. Mike McLean, PlantForm Director Research (from left to right).

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HIV antibody project advances

The Government of Canada provides additional support to the PlantForm project to include drug candidate evaluation

GUELPH, Ont., February 21, 2013—PlantForm Corporation is announcing that the National Research Council of Canada (NRC) Industrial Research Assistance Program (IRAP) is providing additional funding of up to \$97,114 for its human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) antibody development project. The funding will make it possible for the company to expand the scope of the project to include *in vitro* drug candidate evaluation.

PlantForm is focusing on producing antibodies that fight infection by disrupting the HIV's method of entry into human CD4⁺ lymphocytes (T-cells).

"PlantForm has met all project targets to date, using our plant-based technology to successfully produce three antibody drug candidates," said Dr. Don Stewart, PlantForm President and CEO.



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“This new funding from IRAP enables us to further evaluate the antibodies *in vitro* at Duke University in partnership with **The Collaboration for AIDS Vaccine Discovery**.”

Funding is provided through **IRAP’s Canadian HIV Technology Development (CHTD) Program**, which is part of the **Canadian HIV Vaccine Initiative (CHVI)**, a collaboration between the Government of Canada and the **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation**.

The Honourable Gary Goodyear, Minister of State (Science and Technology), toured PlantForm’s greenhouse facility today.

“Our government recognizes the importance of research and development to the health and well-being of Canadians,” said Minister of State Goodyear.

“By providing support to companies like PlantForm, we are helping to create jobs, advancing knowledge in HIV research and the commercialization of critical new drugs.”



PlantForm laboratory staff welcome Minister Goodyear (centre).

PlantForm Corporation’s mission is to provide low-cost biologic drugs to help people fight cancer and other critical conditions.

The company is currently raising Series A capital to advance into the regulatory approval process for its first antibody product, a biosimilar version of the breast cancer drug Herceptin® (trastuzumab). Biosimilar versions of two additional antibody drugs for cancer are in development. PlantForm is also developing an enzyme to protect against nerve agent exposure under contract with the **U.S. Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency**. Projected revenue is more than \$50 million by 2016.



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From left to right, PlantForm Chief Financial Officer Ron Hosking, Chief Operating Officer David Cayea and President and CEO Dr. Don Stewart; Frank Valeriote, Member of Parliament (Guelph); Dr. Mark Goldberg, Chairman, PlantForm Board of Directors; Hon. Gary Goodyear, Minister of State (Science and Technology); Dr. Mike McLean, PlantForm Director Research.



PlantForm laboratory staff and technicians with Minister Gary Goodyear, MP Frank Valeriote, Tomas Matulis, Director of Industrial Research Assistance Program (IRAP) Ontario (far left), Jennifer Mamby, Industrial Technology Advisor, NRC-IRAP (sixth from left), and PlantForm Director Research Dr. Mike McLean.

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