

U of M opens new CIC



Metro Winnipeg

By Bernice Pontanilla

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Eugene Rothwell, CIC lab supervisor, shows Dale Kellogg how the CNC machining machine works in the Industrial Technology Centre. Bernice Pontanilla/Metro Winnipeg

A new facility to house a not-for-profit engineering consulting group is being hailed as a showcase for Manitoba innovation.

The Composites Innovation Centre held on Wednesday the grand opening of their new building in the Tuxedo Industrial Park, which — at 21,000 square feet — is four times the size of their previous location at the University of Manitoba.

“It’s a huge step forward for CIC,” said employee Mark Townsley, who works as ground transportation and design manager. “It’s assisting our industry leaders in Manitoba.”

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This new facility means the CIC will have additional research space and a new training room dedicated to industry education.

“The CIC keeps Manitoba at the forefront of innovation,” said Entrepreneurship, Training and Trade Minister Peter Bjornson, calling the facility a “showcase.”

While many may not be familiar with composites, they’re becoming more in demand for industries such as aerospace, ground transportation and sporting goods.

Bill Stanton, director of product development for Sigma Industries, said through a partnership between his company and the CIC, they’ve created a truck cab that’s 30 per cent lighter.

These projects, added Stanton, helps position Canada as a global leader in innovation.

“(Industry) is starting to realize that research and development is the only way we’ll compete against China,” said Stanton.

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