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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Ontario Government Announces Support for Semi-Finalists in \$20 million competition**

*Three Ontario teams advance at NRG COSIA Carbon XPRIZE competition*

**TORONTO, APRIL 7, 2017-** Today at POND Technologies Inc. in Markham, Reza Moridi, Ontario's Minister of Research, Innovation and Science, announced the government's support for three Ontario-based teams among the 25 international semi-finalists in the \$20-million global [NRG COSIA Carbon XPRIZE](#) competition.

The three Ontario semi-finalists are:

- CERT (Toronto): The team is producing formic acid, which is frequently used in food products as a preservative (led by Ted Sargent).
- Tandem Technical (Ottawa): The team is producing health supplements, toothpaste, paint and fertilizers (led by Jerry Flynn).
- Pond Technology's Carbon Cyclers (Markham): The team is producing biodiesel, solid biofuel and other algae products (led by Peter Howard).

Each team has qualified to receive \$833,000 in funding that will support the development and demonstration of their concepts during the NRG COSIA Carbon XPRIZE competition. The funds are managed on behalf of the province through the [Ontario Centres of Excellence \(OCE\)](#), a Carbon XPRIZE partner, and are a part of OCE's [TargetGHG](#) initiative funded by the Ontario Government's \$74 million [Green Investment Fund](#). Each team will also be assigned a Business Development Manager from OCE during their time in the competition.

"Our government is committed to fighting climate change, and innovative companies like Pond Technologies, CERT and Tandem Technical are helping us do just that," says Reza Moridi, Minister of Research, Innovation and Science. "With Ontario's support, these companies can continue vying for the \$20 million Carbon X-Prize as they develop leading clean technology solutions that will help protect a sustainable environment for generations to come."

"Ontario is proud to work with and support home-grown companies such as Pond Technology's Carbon Cyclers, Tandem Technical and CERT as part of our plan to reduce greenhouse gas pollution and create jobs in the cleantech sector," says Glen R. Murray, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change.

"Congratulations to the semi-finalists and best of luck to them for a prosperous

future.”

The [Carbon XPRIZE](#) competition began in September 2015 and ends in March 2020. Of the 25 semi-finalists, nine teams from Canada are moving to round two with Ontario having the highest number of participating Canadian teams at three.

“On behalf of the province of Ontario, over the past two years OCE has supported 245 bio-economy and clean technology projects with \$10.3M in funding, which in turn leveraged \$23.4 million from partners, and we are thrilled to support Ontario’s teams in this global competition as they work to repurpose pollution into everyday products,” says Dr. Tom Corr, OCE’s President and CEO. “The innovation ecosystem and our researchers in Ontario are leading the growth of the low-carbon economy and by supporting these three semi-finalists the province has taken another step in the fight against climate change.”

For more information on the NRG COSIA Carbon XPRIZE competition, please visit [www.carbon.xprize.org](http://www.carbon.xprize.org).

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About Ontario Centres of Excellence (OCE) Inc.

*OCE drives the commercialization of cutting-edge research across key market sectors to build the economy of tomorrow and secure Ontario's global competitiveness. In doing this, OCE fosters the training and development of the next generation of innovators and entrepreneurs and is a key partner with Ontario's industry, universities, colleges, research hospitals, investors and governments. A champion of leading-edge technologies, best practices and research, OCE invests in sectors such as advanced health, digital media and information communications, advanced manufacturing and materials, and cleantech including energy, environment and water. OCE is a key partner in delivering Ontario's Innovation Agenda as a member of the province's Ontario Network of Entrepreneurs (ONE). Funded by the Government of Ontario, the ONE is made up of regional and sector-focused organizations and helps Ontario-based entrepreneurs rapidly grow their company and create jobs.*