



# News Release

For immediate release

## GOVERNMENT OF CANADA HELPS FARMERS TURN WASTE INTO PROFITABLE ENERGY

**CARLETON PLACE, Ontario, April 15, 2009** – The Government of Canada is investing in a manufacturing facility that will boost the local economy by creating jobs and new markets for farmers. Member of Parliament Scott Reid (Lanark-Frontenac-Lennox and Addington) announced today that the Government of Canada is contributing up to \$480,500 in repayable funding to Powerbase Energy Systems Inc.

“This project will create jobs and boost farmers’ income by helping them turn waste into energy that they can both use and sell,” said MP Scott Reid, on behalf of Federal Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz. “Today, farmers produce great food for our tables. Tomorrow, they will provide the energy to cook that food.”

This smart investment will help Powerbase Energy Systems Inc. create a new manufacturing facility to produce power-generating units that process waste into energy. The facility, located in Carleton Place, will create 10 direct and 15 indirect jobs and is expected to generate approximately \$35.5 million in annual company revenue by 2013.

These renewable energy generation units will provide farmers with additional farming income through the sale of surplus power to the Ontario power grid and will reduce or eliminate their own electricity costs. In addition to energy savings, the benefits include the reduction of pathogens in the environment, manure odours, and greenhouse gases, as well as simplifying manure handling.

“We are very pleased to have the financial support of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada for the rollout of our Synergy Biogas product line. We are creating jobs locally and economic opportunities for farmers with renewable energy technology,” said Rob Morley, President of Powerbase Energy Systems Inc.

“The biggest direct benefit to me will be the earned income from electrical sales,” says Doug Cleary, a local farmer planning to install a Synergy Biopower System that will process manure and restaurant waste. “Our neighbours will appreciate it and so will the restaurant industry as it will prevent both of these kinds of waste from damaging the environment.”

For more information on the Agri-Opportunities program please visit [www.agr.gc.ca/agri-opportunities](http://www.agr.gc.ca/agri-opportunities).



Agriculture and    Agriculture et  
Agri-Food Canada    Agroalimentaire Canada

Canada

-2-

For more information, media may contact:

**Media Relations**

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Ottawa, Ontario

**613-759-7972**

**1-866-345-7972**

**Meagan Murdoch**

Press Secretary

The Office of the Honourable Gerry Ritz

**613-759-1059**



## **BACKGROUNDER**

### **ABOUT POWERBASE ENERGY SYSTEMS INC.**

Powerbase Energy Systems Inc. is a privately held company located in Carleton Place, Ontario. The company designs, markets, and services hydroelectric control systems for small hydroelectric power generators and is filling a need for small-scale power generation systems linked to agriculture production.

Powerbase Energy Systems Inc. has developed a modular power generation system specifically targeted to dairy, beef and hog farms and oilseed producers. The company's modular system, marketed under the trade name "Synergy Biopower", includes biogas generation equipment, an optional anaerobic digester, electrical system controls, gas flaring system, and a power utility linkage to connect to the local power grid, which has been approved by the Ontario Power Authority.

The Synergy Biopower system will allow the farmers to transform livestock waste and crushed oilseed waste into electricity which they will sell to the Ontario power grid or power their operations.

The project will create a manufacturing facility to produce the Synergy Biopower system through the acquisition of specialized manufacturing equipment, training programs for trades and marketing personnel, and support for the company's marketing plan. The manufacturing facility, which will be located adjacent to the company's current electrical controls plant in Carleton Place, Ontario, will create 10 direct and 15 indirect jobs and is expected to generate approximately \$35.5 million in annual company revenue by 2013.

### **ABOUT THE AGRI-OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM**

The Agri-Opportunities Program, a \$134 million five-year program, was launched in January 2007 and is delivered nationally by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. Projects funded by the program aim to increase market opportunities for the Canadian agriculture industry and benefit farmers by generating demand for agricultural products.

For more information about Agri-Opportunities and other AAFC programs, please visit our website: [www.agr.gc.ca](http://www.agr.gc.ca) (Programs and Services section).