



*The **Vancouver Economic Development Commission**, an agency of the City of Vancouver, works to strengthen the city's economic future by helping existing businesses, attracting investment, researching the business environment and making policy recommendations.*

## **Media Backgrounder**

### **INFORMATION & COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (ICT) & WIRELESS**

#### 1.0 Industry Snapshot

##### **Overview**

Access to top-notch talent, world-class R&D and strong research and design incentives make Metro Vancouver an ideal environment for technology businesses. The region's ICT sector represents approximately 70 per cent of the ICT industry in the province of British Columbia (B.C.), which is comprised of more than 6,000 companies and more than 46,000 employees. The industry in the province generates revenues of approximately \$9 billion annually. This includes 250 wireless technology companies that generate in excess of \$1B annually.

##### **Sub-Sectors**

The ICT sector is predominantly service-oriented, and focused on computer systems design and related services, engineering services, software publishing, wireless technology, and peripheral equipment manufacturing. The wireless industry often describes its different activities under the heading DNA, which stands for Devices, Networks and Applications. Application developers make up by far the largest sub-sector in Metro Vancouver's wireless community.

##### **Top Industry Performers**

Metro Vancouver is a historic leader in the wireless domain; local industry frontrunners include MPR Teltech, MDI, and Sierra Wireless, as well as Webtech Wireless, Canpages and Vecima Networks, in addition to the many niche application and content designers. Global ICT firms with a presence in the region include Microsoft, Nokia, Intel, Eastman Kodak, Oracle, and SAP, to name a few.

##### **Growth and Trends**

Approximately 42% of wireless companies were in a growth stage, and 47% in pre-commercial, early-commercial or restart phase in 2007, however a more mature cluster will develop in 2010.

Vancouver has all of the requisite components for a healthy, thriving ICT/wireless cluster, including readily available B.C.-based talent and well-established engineering and scientific curricula at local universities. This has created an innovative environment for technology companies to thrive.

## 2.0 Sector Incentives and Support

The ICT sector has benefited significantly from the National Research Council of Canada's Industrial Research Assistance Program (NRC-IRAP), which provides a range of technical and business-advisory services to support growth-oriented Canadian small and medium-sized enterprises, including non-repayable contributions to Canadian firms. The program has contributed more than \$570 million to more than 30,000 projects.

The Scientific Research and Experimental Development (SR&ED) program is a federal tax incentive designed to encourage research and development in Canada. Qualifying non-Canadian companies are eligible to receive tax credits of 20 per cent of qualified expenditures. The BC Government adds a ten per cent tax credit for qualifying Canadian and non-Canadian corporations that conduct R&D in BC.

## 3.0 Resource Organizations

### → AceTech

Forum of CEO's of technology and life science companies

[www.acetech.org](http://www.acetech.org)

### → B.C. Innovation Council

Crown Agency that fosters innovation and commercialization, in partnership with government, industry and academia. The Council provides research funding, scholarships and other resources.

[www.bcic.ca](http://www.bcic.ca)

### → B.C.Net

Consortium of post-secondary institutions in B.C. providing high-speed internet capacity for advanced research.

[www.bc.net](http://www.bc.net)

### → B.C. Technology Industry Association

Non-profit organization that supports the growth of B.C.'s technology industry through a variety of programs and initiatives.

[www.bctia.org](http://www.bctia.org)

→ DigiBC

The Digital Media and Wireless Association of BC – is a member-supported, non-profit organization that promotes, supports and accelerates the growth, competitiveness and sustainability of BC's new media and wireless industry.

[www.digibc.org](http://www.digibc.org)

→ MobileMuse

An innovation network of community-based cultural, media and technology champions.

[www.mobilemuse.ca](http://www.mobilemuse.ca)

→ Wavefront

Commercialization bridge between the wireless developer community and mobile operators, government and large enterprises deploying wireless products and services

[www.wavefrontac.com](http://www.wavefrontac.com)

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**Media Inquiries:**

Rebecca Peters

Laura Ballance Media Group

604.252.3614 (office)

604.762.2098 (cell)

[Rebecca@LBMG.ca](mailto:Rebecca@LBMG.ca)