The Gateway to Canada’s Largest Academic Cluster

MaRS Innovation (MI) is a commercialization agent that integrates, centralizes and accelerates the time to market for intellectual property assets emerging within its 15 world-class research institutions, which is derived from $1 billion in annual R&D funding. Created as a not-for-profit organization through the Government of Canada’s Center of Excellence for Commercialization and Research program (CECR), MI has raised $50 million from federal and provincial governments, member institutions and industry partners. MI’s vision is to transform the Toronto-based research enterprise into one of world’s most successful commercialization clusters.

Through detailed, market facing due diligence, MI identifies opportunities from Canada’s largest academic cluster for further development and commercialization through project management, intellectual property management, investment and technology development. By crossing the innovation gap, MI transforms these opportunities into successful high-value licensing transactions and financeable start-up companies.

**Key Achievements:**
- Reviewed and assessed over **1,500** invention disclosures in six years
- Over **100** technologies under management
- Launched, invested in and currently managing **40** start-up companies, half of which have serious traction with investors, customers and/or industry partners
- Directly invested **$10 million** in portfolio companies, leading to over **$100 million** in follow-on investment from external investors (**$94 million** from outside Canada)
- Created over **300 direct jobs** (no multiplier)
- Formed **strategic partnerships** with multinational pharmaceutical firms including GlaxoSmithKline, Johnson & Johnson, Baxter, CML Healthcare, Merck and Pfizer