



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Niagara College receives new technology for agriculture research project

High-performance computing equipment delivers huge results, saves energy

Representatives of Niagara College, MDG Computers Canada and nVidia unveiled a significant equipment donation today that will supply Niagara College with much needed high performance computing equipment for its PrAgMatic agricultural research project.

The equipment, which includes a high-end server, equipped with an nVidia Telsa high-performance GPU computing processor, delivers huge results and energy conservation for Niagara College. The server will be used to process huge volumes of information as part of the College's PrAgMatic project. The single unit being donated is powerful enough to replace Niagara College's original plan for a server cluster of over 100 units. The result of replacing hundreds of systems with only one brings major cost and energy savings.

The MDG system was designed with high performance computing as the top priority, which the nVidia Tesla makes possible with its multi-threaded processor architecture.

"MDG is very proud to be part of this project and on a larger scale is putting a major focus on partnering with the educational sectors across Canada," says John Mangold, Vice President Sales at MDG Computers. "We all know that it is of utmost importance to our economy to have our children exposed to high technology at every level of schooling."

The PrAgMatic System is being developed to help farmers take advantage of a wide variety of technologies to collect data about how crops grow. Technologies range from remote sensing devices, such as satellite and aircraft-based imagery, to hand-held sensors. The information provides farmers with concise data regarding what crops may need, or what might be threatening them.

"Niagara Research is delighted to receive the donation of the new high performance from MDG," says Director, Research and Innovation, Marti Jurmain. "Under the guidance of our lead researchers, our students will learn how to program for the enormous power and speed of the computer, and our industry partners, initially those in the agricultural sector, will benefit from having farm or vineyard data turned into useful information."

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Since 1991, MDG Computers Canada Inc. has grown into the largest Canadian owned PC manufacturer and retailer of desktop and notebook computers. With headquarters in Oakville, MDG is a private company operating through a network of 25 retail franchise stores across Canada, a national support/account centre, and corporate/educational division. Renowned for its quality products and excellent service, MDG has earned the trust and loyalty of Canadian consumers, businesses, and institutions from coast to coast.

Focused on community, business, and industry needs, goals, and problems, Niagara Research – Niagara College’s applied research department – links industry, faculty, and students in applied research initiatives, development, and knowledge. Since 2005, Niagara Research has worked in prototype development, lead simulations and industrial trials, developed new and improved products, processes, and business practices, implemented new practices in business and the community, all in a wide variety of fields. With continued support from federal and provincial governments, the community and business, it is their goal to keep providing research, development and knowledge.

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