

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### New partnership helps foreign-trained technology workers

*--Integration of workers alleviates skills shortages  
and helps create more diverse workplace--*

Ottawa and Toronto, September 25, Vitesse (Re-skilling) Canada Inc. and World Education Services today announced a partnership to help foreign trained technology workers find suitable employment.

The new program will include the evaluation of academic credentials earned abroad. Related educational and vocational upgrading will also be provided to place participants in related occupations.

“The issue of foreign credential recognition has been identified as one of the major barriers to integrating highly-qualified professionals in the Canadian workplace. The WES Vitesse partnership will ensure that more immigrants will be able to take advantage of Vitesse re-skilling programs. In this way Canada will benefit fully from this underutilized human resource.” says Arvind Chhatbar, president of Vitesse.

“Failure to recognize foreign credentials is costing Canada billions of dollars,” says Timothy Owen, Director of World Education Services. “The talent internationally trained workers bring to the table helps companies address skills shortages and diversity goals. Our partnership with Vitesse will help integrate qualified workers into the skills short technology sector and address the strategic issue of workplace diversity.”

Vitesse was founded in 1996 through a partnership between the National Research Council, the University of Ottawa, Carleton University and knowledge-sector employees to address skill-gaps in the high-technology sector. In 2002, Vitesse will be launching a Re-Skilling program in Biotechnology aimed at foreign-trained professionals.

World Education Services is a non-profit organization. Its mission is to help integrate foreign-trained individuals into the educational and vocational environment of their new country. They provide evaluations of academic credentials that were earned outside of Canada at the secondary and post secondary level.

The goals of this partnership are to combine resources and expertise to offer internationally trained professionals the best chance at having their credentials recognized. World Education Services will provide the evaluations so that candidates to Vitesse programs have a better chance of finding Canadian employment in their speciality as well as sponsorship for vocational upgrading.

This partnership will offer new Canadians the best chance at advancing their careers with the least amount of retraining.

#### **About Vitesse Canada Inc.**

Vitesse (Re-Skilling) Canada Inc. ([www.vitesse.ca](http://www.vitesse.ca)) retrains and re-skills science and engineering graduates to take advantage of current and emerging opportunities. The Vitesse programs are based on the philosophy that every single Vitesse project should be adapted to the actual needs and preferences of the individual participating company. Vitesse has received the Chrysler Award from the Conference Board of Canada for the best initiative to meet the skills needs in partnership with educational institutions and industry and to date, it has re-skilled 300 science and engineering graduates to software engineering and photonics. In 2002, Vitesse has received a mandate from the Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities to develop a fast-track re-skilling program addressing the needs of the Ontario biotech/life sciences sector. The target is unemployed or underemployed foreign-trained professionals with a life sciences or engineering background.

### **About World Education Services**

The Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities has mandated World Education Services ([www.wes.org.ca](http://www.wes.org.ca)), a not-for-profit organization, to be the government of Ontario's authorized credential evaluation service. From its Toronto offices, WES brings 27 years of experience and an unmatched database of 38,000 institutions in 200 jurisdictions to provide education credential evaluation services. In 2001, WES prepared over 45,000 evaluations. Clients include the Public Service Commission of Canada, Department of National Defense, COMCARE Health Services, Bank of Montreal, City of Toronto, CGA of Ontario, Queen's University, AT&T, Hydro One, Deloitte & Touche and Enbridge.,

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