

Press Release

For immediate release

INNOVATIVE PROJECT IN CHAPAIS TO RECEIVE JOINT INVESTMENT FROM SDBJ AND ARBJ

Matagami, December 19, 2018 – Société de développement de la Baie-James (SDBJ) and Administration régionale Baie-James (ARBJ) are pleased to announce their joint investment of \$300,000 in the NORDEXT inc. project, an agroforestry extractables plant to be located in Chapais. The investment, which is being made as part of Réseau Capital Baie-James, will be used to complete the project's market introduction phase.

"This investment clearly demonstrates the desire of SDBJ and ARBJ to find innovative ways of supporting growth-generating projects in the most sensitive phases of their development. A product of the town of Chapais' Plan de diversification économique 2017-2020, this project will contribute to diversifying the local economy and help consolidate the local cogeneration plant," said SDBJ CEO Raymond Thibault.

According to ARBJ President René Dubé, "Réseau Capital Baie-James makes it possible to align development efforts with various partners to develop and support innovative projects throughout the region. ARBJ applauds the work done jointly with SDBJ for this project. The Nordext project is part of the region's commitment to economic diversification of towns and communities and, through this investment, we are proud to support a growth-generating project that will contribute to the development of Chapais."

"We will be able to use the excess thermal energy produced by the Chapais cogeneration plant to produce high-value-added polyphenols for the food, nutraceutical and animal feed markets. We are very pleased to see that our regional development organizations believe in the project," added Jérôme Simard, a founding member of NORDEXT inc.

Steve Gamache, President of the Corporation de développement économique de Chapais (CDEC) and Mayor of Chapais, said that "SDBJ and ARBJ have shown that they are very open to furthering the Nordext project, despite the fact that it is currently in the development phase. This is a major project for Chapais, since it will not only allow for the cogeneration plant's excess thermal energy to be put to good use, but will also create jobs."

Jonatan Julien, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources and Minister responsible for the Côte-Nord region, added that "This project clearly demonstrates our government's intent to stimulate regional development and entrepreneurship, while taking each region's special characteristics and strengths into consideration. These regional partnerships are essential in meeting the major challenges related to economic diversification in the regions and I want to emphasize the SDBJ's commitment in this regard."

About SDBJ

The SDBJ, which has been in existence for over 45 years, was created under the *James Bay Region Development Act* adopted by Québec National Assembly in 1971. Its mission is to promote, from a sustainable development perspective, the economic development, improvement and exploitation of natural resources other than hydroelectric resources falling within Hydro-Québec's mandate in the Baie-James territory. The SDBJ can also foster, support and participate in the implementation of projects having these objectives. <http://www.sdbj.gouv.qc.ca>

About ARBJ

The ARBJ acts on behalf of Jamesians in all areas relating to regional development. In this capacity, it is the prime consulting body for the government. The association supports cooperation between partners and, when required, advises the Minister of Regional Affairs and Land Occupancy. It also enters into agreements with government departments and organizations involved in regional development with a view to exercising certain powers and responsibilities associated with implementing regional priorities and adapting the government's actions and programs to regional circumstances. <http://www.arbj.ca>

About Réseau Capital Baie-James

The mission of Réseau Capital Baie-James is to increase the region's capacity to support large-scale, complex projects, stimulate the interest of business investors and stakeholders in choosing Baie-James as the host region for their projects, and support cooperation between regional development stakeholders and financial partners.

-30-

Source:

Alain Coulombe, MBA
Acting Vice-President, Operations
Société de développement de la Baie-James
Tel.: 819 739-4717, ext. 1250
Fax: 819 739-4329
alain.coulombe@sdbj.gouv.qc.ca

Marie-Claude Brousseau
Acting General Director
Administration régionale Baie-James
Tel.: 819 739-4111, ext. 10240
Fax: 819 739-4809
mcbrousseau@arbj.ca

Information:

Jérôme Simard
NORDEXT inc.
Tel.: 418 637-5651
jeromesimard@sourceia.ca

Lise Aubin
Corporation de développement
économique de Chapais (CDEC)
Tel.: 418 745-2511, ext. 30238
laubin@villedechapis.com

Ms. Claude Potvin
Press Officer
Office of the Minister of Energy
and Natural Resources and
Minister responsible for the
Côte-Nord region
claud.potvin@mern.gouv.qc.ca