



October 17, 2006

**Re: Letter of Intent Between MaRS Discovery District (MaRS) and
BioLink Canada-Ireland**

- Whereas MaRS is a convergence innovation centre – a non-share capital corporation that is dedicated to accelerating Ontario’s commercialization, entrepreneurialism and innovation capacity by bringing together the communities of science, business and capital;
- Whereas BioLink Canada-Ireland is an association of members from the biotech/life science research, commercialization, and business communities in Canada and in Ireland, and others who are similarly engaged, the aims of which are connecting and fostering relations and interactions among members for mutual benefit, and providing support to the development of the biosciences in commercial, academic and government settings in Canada and Ireland;
- Whereas MaRS is seeking to develop collaborative relationships with key international networks and sources of best practice, like BioLink Canada-Ireland;
- Whereas BioLink Canada-Ireland is looking to build on the success of Biolink USA-Ireland by creating a parallel network in Canada;
- Whereas BioLink Canada-Ireland acknowledges the support of Enterprise Ireland, the Irish Government agency responsible for the development of Irish industry;

BioLink Canada-Ireland and MaRS now agree to use this Letter of Intent to lay the foundation of a partnership with the aim of pursuing a specific set of objectives, including but not limited to:

- Enhancing the profile of MaRS in Ireland where and when relevant;
- Providing Biolink Canada-Ireland with access to Ontario and Canadian resources, in particular the tools and people networks relevant to the process of commercialization of technologies and the growth of technology companies;
- Facilitating mutual access to innovation and commercialization resources and infrastructure;
- Exploring policy areas of mutual interest, for example (1) the role of the pharmaceutical industry in creating and driving a knowledge-intensive economy;

(2) building a “North American gateway” in Ontario mirroring Ireland’s “European gateway”;

- Facilitating movement of researchers and entrepreneurs between Ontario and Ireland, with an initial focus of developing a deeper set of research partnerships;
- Sharing of information on technologies available for licensing, or suitable for start-up companies;
- Sharing resources on North American and European venture capital and investment trends;

Concurrently with this process, BioLink Canada-Ireland and MaRS agree to undertake immediately the following activities designed to signal the clear intention of the parties to move forward with this arrangement:

- Support the selection of an Ontario delegation to represent the province at the upcoming Biolreland 2006 to be held in Dublin, November 12-14, 2006;
- Explore the possibility for Enterprise Ireland and BioLink Canada-Ireland participating in the Global CONNECT conference that will be hosted at MaRS in December 2006;
- Identify specific opportunities for collaboration and partnering between Canadian and Irish SMEs in the Life Sciences sector.

This Letter of Intent, understood as a non-binding agreement, is not intended to create an exclusive relationship, or to prevent either organization from entering into agreements of a similar nature with other organizations dedicated to the same or similar goals.

Agreed,

Dr. Ilse Treurnicht
CEO
MaRS Discovery District

Tim McTiernan
PRESIDENT
BioLink Canada-Ireland

Date: _____

Date: _____