

# Media Release

## Prairie Plant Systems Opens 15,000 Square Foot Office and Laboratory Expansion

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Prairie Plant Systems is pleased to announce the opening of its new head office, laboratory and greenhouse/processing facility in East Corman Park. Located 3 km east of Saskatoon on Highway-16. In its 18<sup>th</sup> year of operations, Prairie Plant Systems is one of Saskatoon's original private biotech companies.

“This is a very important milestone for Prairie Plant Systems.” says Don Ching, chairman of the PPS board “The Company is a leader in emerging plant technologies and it continues to develop an international reputation in this field”.

Prairie Plant Systems came to national prominence in 2000 when it was awarded the medical marijuana contract for Health Canada. That contract allowed the company to open North America's first Good Manufacturing Practices, approved pharmaceutical, underground growth chamber in a mine near Flin Flon Manitoba. Since then the company has opened a second growth chamber in an abandoned mine in the White Pine, Michigan USA. The advantage of underground growth chambers is that it provides total control over the growing conditions, while achieving complete genetic containment.

“This is a very special day for us” says Brent Zettl, president and CEO of Prairie Plant Systems. “ it's taken us eighteen challenging years to get to this point, but we are the first to have a GMP growth chamber, be leaders in environmental land reclamation and supply the majority of Western Canada's native fruit trees and we did it FROM Saskatchewan” says Zettl.

Prairie Plant Systems employs 35 people at four different sites. In addition to its head offices and greenhouses on Highway #16, PPS also operates the Biosecure Underground Growth Chamber in Flin Flon, the SubTerra, Growth Chamber in White Pine Michigan and its Plant cloning laboratory at Innovation Place in Saskatoon. It has three major divisions: Biopharma, Biotechnology products and Services, and Environmental.

The company was founded by Mr. Zettl in 1986, primarily to supply the orchard business with Saskatoon berry shrubs. Mr. Zettl soon discovered that there were many applications for his cloning technology and proceeded to expand the business into cherries and other forms of research.

“I think Prairie Plant Systems focus on Plant Made Pharmaceuticals (PMPs) and using plants as factories is the way of the future” says Dr. Brandon Price, President of Falcon Bridge Associates and a member of the PPS board. “Using plants to produce drugs was not possible even ten years ago” says Price “ but technology has moved so far in understanding the DNA of plants and diseases so that we can now use nature to produce safe and effective drugs and vaccines”.

The PMP market is an emerging market within the much larger market of Biopharmaceuticals (estimated to be worldwide \$125 billion/year). PMPs are pharmaceutically active ingredients produced in plants. “Using plants as drug factories is not a new concept” says Zettl “what is new is the technology to modify and control the plants genetic so that very specific molecular compounds are produced”

“We’re ideally situated to enter the PMP market” says Zettl ” With GMP facilities for growing plants, it is a logical extension for PPS to create plants which carry medicines, vaccines and other beneficial ingredients for the health market.”

The 15,000 square foot facility, opened today, includes PPS’ administrative offices, two laboratories, a processing area and warehouse space. It is expected this space will provide PPS with the facilities it needs to take it to the next level of PMP production.

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