

## **FPInnovations and West Fraser Welcome NRCan Investment Towards Innovative Lignin Separation Process**

**Calgary, AB – June 26, 2014** – FPInnovations and West Fraser Timber Co. Ltd. (West Fraser) are proud to support the contribution of Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) of \$10 million, under the Investments in Forest Industry Transformation (IFIT) Program, to support the implementation of a commercial-scale lignin recovery process at West Fraser’s plant in Hinton, AB. Details of the contribution were revealed at a press conference held in Calgary, AB, in the presence of the Honourable Greg Rickford, Minister of Natural Resources.

West Fraser’s Hinton pulp mill will be the first in Canada to extract the lignin from its black liquor recovery stream, enabling it to produce the quantities needed to meet the supply requirements of end-users, using a proprietary process developed through past federal investments in R&D with FPInnovations and NORAM Engineering, called LignoForce. This project is the evolution of a transformative process that began with an investment in a similar LignoForce pilot-scale demonstration facility in Thunder Bay, ON, which was funded by NRCan’s Transformative Technologies Pilot Scale Demonstration Program, the Government of Ontario and the Centre for Research and Innovation in the Bio-Economy (CRIBE).

### **Quick Facts**

- The IFIT program provides funding for near-commercial or first-commercial deployment of innovative technologies in the Canadian forest sector — a critical step in taking ideas from the research and development stage to the marketplace. It is part of a broad federal strategy that includes expanding market opportunities for the forest sector in North America and overseas.
- Initially, West Fraser will pursue the use of lignin as a renewable, natural replacement for certain glue components used in the manufacture of plywood and engineered wood products such as laminated veneer lumber (LVL) and oriented strand board (OSB).
- FPInnovations and NORAM Engineering have developed a proprietary process (LignoForce) to recover lignin from black liquor, which provides a kraft mill with a new, high value revenue stream, while increasing pulp production. FPInnovations’ research combined with NORAM Engineering’s commercial process and technology development resulted in an efficient, low capital system capable of producing high quality dry lignin. The LignoForce demonstration plant in Thunder Bay, ON, is capable of producing 12.5 kg/h of lignin.
- Potential uses for lignin include: adhesives in wood products, a green chemical alternative, surfactants and binders, polyol in polyurethane foams, chemicals, thermoplastic composites,

packaging, carbon black, activated carbon, dispersant/flocculant, epoxy resins, adhesive in foundry resins and adhesives in pellets.

## Quotes

“We welcome this announcement, which is a shining example of how collaboration and strategic partnerships with industries, governments and research institutions can have a positive impact on traditional markets while leading the development of innovative new products. FPInnovations is excited to be the catalyst that fosters alliances among organizations that have complementary objectives.”

*Pierre Lapointe*  
*President and CEO, FPInnovations*

“Lignin recovery offers the potential for high-value, bio-based chemical alternatives that could have wide application in industrial use. Developing high-value products from our existing production reinforces the competitiveness of our operations and supports rewarding careers in our business. We are excited to explore new markets and commercial opportunities for this novel, renewable bioproduct.”

*Ted Seraphim*  
*President and CEO, West Fraser*

## Associated Links

- To learn more about the IFIT program, visit [www.forest-transformation.nrcan.gc.ca](http://www.forest-transformation.nrcan.gc.ca).
- To find out more about FPInnovations’ research programs, please visit: [www.fpinnovations.ca](http://www.fpinnovations.ca) and follow us on Twitter @FPInnovations.
- To learn more about West Fraser, visit: [www.westfraser.com](http://www.westfraser.com).

## About FPInnovations

FPInnovations is a not-for-profit world leader that specializes in the creation of scientific solutions in support of the Canadian forest sector’s global competitiveness and responds to the priority needs of its industry members and government partners. It is ideally positioned to perform research, innovate, and deliver state-of-the-art solutions for every area of the sector’s value chain, from forest operations to consumer and industrial products. FPInnovations’ staff numbers more than 525. Its R&D laboratories are located in Québec City, Montréal, and Vancouver, and it has technology transfer offices across Canada. For more information about FPInnovations, visit: [www.fpinnovations.ca](http://www.fpinnovations.ca).

## About West Fraser

West Fraser is an integrated wood products company producing lumber, wood chips, LVL, MDF, plywood, pulp and newsprint. The Company has operations in western Canada and the southern United States. West Fraser shares trade on the Toronto Stock Exchange under the symbol: “WFT”. For more information about West Fraser, visit: [www.westfraser.com](http://www.westfraser.com).

Contacts:

**Terry Knee**

FPIInnovations

Communications Director

604 222-5665

[terry.knee@fpinnovations.ca](mailto:terry.knee@fpinnovations.ca)

**Tara Knight**

West Fraser

Manager, Communications

604 895-2773

[Tara.knight@westfraser.com](mailto:Tara.knight@westfraser.com)