

WELCOME TO LINAC92

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On behalf of AECL and our president, Dr. Rummery, who is regretfully unable to be with us today, I would like to say how proud we are to host this prestigious conference in Canada's capital. It is particularly nice to welcome our foreign delegates to Ottawa during this 125th birthday celebration of our country. We hope during your stay that you will be able to enjoy also some of the activities associated with this celebration around the city.

LINAC92 is the 16th of this series of international conferences and only the third to be held outside the USA. We are very pleased that it has returned to Canada after 16 years, since the 1976 conference that was held at Chalk River. At that time, the attendance was 110 and could be accommodated at our Laboratories site. The threefold increase in numbers this year has brought us to Ottawa.

AECL's primary product is the highly successful CANDU heavy-water power reactor. However, we have also had a long-standing interest in accelerators since the start of this series of conferences in the mid-1960's. Then we launched the idea of ING, the Intense Neutron Generator, with a focus on nuclear breeding. Although ING was never funded, research and development of high-current, low-energy accelerators has continued by our group of accelerator enthusiasts for various scientific and industrial applications. Several of these enthusiasts have left our company, but we are pleased to see many of them in the audience today renewing their ties with us.

As with many other companies in these troubled economic times, we have had to pare back on our

research portfolio in order that we fund adequately those research programs remaining. Regretfully, part of this paring has led to cancellation of the very successful cw RFQ program, which currently holds a world record for high currents. Arrangements are being made, however, to transfer the technology to Los Alamos, so that this very valuable line of research can continue. As I have said, we live in very troubled economic times.

I am pleased to note that our electron linac program is continuing at Chalk River to support the nuclear power program, numerous commercial contracts in support of basic research accelerator facilities, and our business unit, AECL Accelerators, with their 50 kW, 10 MeV IMPELA industrial accelerator.

The organizers have planned a full schedule for you during this conference. The scientific program, I note, will run for the next five days, with a full range of topics given both in oral and poster sessions. We hope you enjoy the break on Wednesday afternoon for a picnic on the historic Ottawa River, with some of the more daring among you, who don't mind getting wet, taking advantage of the rafting through the white water. We are also very pleased to welcome the over 100 among you who have decided to take the trip up the Ottawa Valley on Friday afternoon for a visit to the Chalk River Laboratories and our accelerator facilities.

Let me once again welcome you to the conference and to Ottawa, and hope that you have a very pleasant and productive meeting.