

## ***Nurturing the High-Tech Cluster in the Okanagan and beyond – Okanagan Valley Research & Innovation Centre will have a booth at DRAO's Open House***

Penticton, September 14, 2005

At the annual Open House of NRC's Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory (NRC-DRAO) on September 24<sup>th</sup>, the non-profit society **Okanagan Valley Research & Innovation Centre** (ORIC) will be present for the first time, according to Peter Haubrich, ORIC's Executive Director.

ORIC's mission is to enhance the high-tech industry of the Okanagan and Western Canada by: enhancing access to the excellent know-how and infrastructure of NRC-DRAO; facilitating commercialization of NRC-DRAO's intellectual property; performing applied research on front line technologies such as wireless communication; and organizing training activities and seminars for professionals.

ORIC has a powerful Board of Directors with representatives from academia, industry and government. The industry in the Okanagan and Western Canada will benefit tremendously from ORIC, according to Kathleen Wallace elected Chair of ORIC's board of directors and CEO of Skytrac Systems Inc., who notes "ORIC will allow much easier access to the advanced technologies of the radio observatory and the pool of ideas and experts."

RFind Systems Inc., a start-up company dealing with RFID systems, is the first to be located in ORIC's business incubator. An incubator offers resources and services to entrepreneurs like physical space and infrastructure, management coaching, business plan support, technical support, business networking, advice on intellectual property and sources of financing, that will significantly raise their survival rate. "ORIC and NRC-DRAO will give my company the needed boost to be successful", according to RFind Systems Inc. CEO Sharon Barnes.

Further information can be found about ORIC at [www.oric.ca](http://www.oric.ca) and about NRC-DRAO at [www.hia.nrc.gc.ca/drao/index\\_e.html](http://www.hia.nrc.gc.ca/drao/index_e.html)