INTRODUCTION - MESSAGE FROM PETER STOW

Funding for research is always a vexed question. Especially when it comes to public funding. There are so many other demands on the public purse that spending money on research, which might be esoteric or have goals without a specific timeline, can be a hard sell. Canada has suffered through a recession in spending in our universities and research institutions. So it is with pleasure that we read of the science research funding in the recent federal budget which, while spread over 5 years and various Government funding agencies, will give science research in Canada the boost it needs.

When it was introduced in 1997 the Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI) fund proved to be exactly the tonic that Canadian universities needed to modernize and expand their research activities. While it still provides funding for many projects, the CFI’s role has evolved with time. We now hope that the newly announced funding will compliment the CFI’s work and provide an addition supplement to the research landscape in Canada.

IN MEMORIAM - KURT KYSER

It was with great sadness that we heard of the passing of Dr. Kurt Kyser. Kurt was a pillar of the Earth Science community in Canada and beyond. Born in Montana, he established highly respected geochemistry isotope laboratories in first the University of Saskatchewan and then at Queens University in Ontario. A full tribute to Kurt is posted on the Queen’s University website: http://www.queensu.ca/geol/remembering-dr-kurt-kyser-0

Kurt passed away doing what he loved, taking students on a field trip. His sense of wonder and discovery into how the world worked was infectious and he loved nothing more than encouraging the same desire to understand the world in his students.

Kurt was a personal friend and supporter of Isomass. We had worked closely with him in building his laboratory at Queens University. Kurt’s comments on our relationship can be found in our 35 years anniversary edition of our newsletter: http://www.isomass.com/wp-content/uploads/1606-Newsletter.pdf Our hearts go out to April, Kurt’s partner, his family and friends.

ISOMASS’ SAMPLE FRAGMENTATION LAB AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

For the past three years Isomass has been demonstrating the Selfrag LAB at universities and government laboratories as well as several conferences around North America where it attracted a lot of attention. At GSA last year every demonstration of the fragmentation instrument filled the aisle in front of the LAB. One particular demo had children from a local school on the outreach day. The children thought that it was “cool” when their teacher handed over “her” cell phone to be fragmented in the LAB; little did they know, we keep a stock of old phones for this purpose.

The LAB has now been installed at the University of Alberta where it will continue to serve as a demonstration unit for anyone who wishes to see it in operation and test it’s capabilities. For larger sample quantities the LAB is available for fee based disaggregation. Please contact sales@isomass.com for more information.
NEW TO THE ISOMASS FAMILY - KEMET INTERNATIONAL LTD.

Isomass is pleased to announce the addition of Kemet International to our existing product offerings. As part of Isomass’ ongoing commitment to the Earth Science research community in North America we’re always on the lookout for products that complement our current services. To be considered, a manufacturer needs to have the same enthusiasm as Isomass for their products, their market and most importantly their customers. Kemet is a company that has successfully built on these principles and are dedicated to making quality products for geological sample preparation including, but not limited to, thin sections for light microscopy, SEM and ion probe work.

Last year Peter had the opportunity to visit Kemet’s facility in Kent, England and was impressed by their attentiveness to quality manufacturing as well as their commitment to innovation and the development of new technologies. Kemet strive to make processing samples both easier and more reliable. Availability of stock is a strong illustration of a company’s commitment to their customers. Peter could tell from his visit that Kemet is a company that values the same philosophy as Isomass in that we are here to support the success of our customers—not the other way around!

The UK has a system to acknowledge and reward manufacturers who excel in a variety of fields. The Queens Awards for Enterprise are the highest official UK awards for British businesses. They honor excellence in international trade, innovation and sustainable development as well as promoting opportunity through social mobility. In 2009 Kemet received a Queens Award for International Trade showcasing their long-established commitment to their global subsidiaries and overseas markets—80 years of commitment to be exact! Established in 1938, Kemet now operates worldwide with subsidiary companies in Benelux, Singapore, Malaysia, China, Korea, Japan and Australia.

Adding Canada to that list enables Isomass to provide our customers with a complete range of equipment and consumables to cut, grind, lap and polish geological samples. Many of the consumables, such as diamond wheels, grinding disks, polishing pads, lapping powders and pastes, can be used with other manufacturers equipment eliminating the need to order from multiple sources; conveniently located right here in Canada with Canadian pricing!

Please drop us a line and tell us what consumables you use with your thin section equipment; we’ll be happy to provide you with a FREE sample pack of Kemet products to try. If you’re satisfied with our new products we’ll gladly add them to our continuous stock inventory so they’re available and ready to ship at your convenience!

Please contact sales@isomass.com for more information.

CONFERENCES - Come visit us at these upcoming conferences!

RFG 2018
Resources for Future Generations
RFG2018
June 16-21, 2018
Vancouver, BC

Goldschmidt
August 12-17, 2018
Boston, Massachusetts

The conferences Isomass attends are listed on our website, www.isomass.com, and are always being updated!