



## FPIinnovations Forest research institutes merge

# New value for a changing marketplace

*contributed by FPIinnovations*

When the term “mergers and acquisitions” is mentioned in the forest industry, most people envision large forest product companies engaged in hostile corporate takeovers, or perhaps to a lesser extent, a more amiable merger and consolidation of two companies. The forest industry’s research sector flies under the radar at times; however, changes are occurring to improve efficiencies and enhance this sector’s profile for the benefit of the industry as a whole.

On April 1, 2007, a merger of Canada’s three primary forest sector research institutes—Feric, Forintek, and Paprican—created FPIinnovations, the largest, private, not-for-profit forest sector research institute in the world. The Canadian Wood Fibre Centre of Natural Resources Canada has also joined with the three research institutes to operate as four divisions within the new company. This merger enables Canada’s forest products industry to speak with a single, strong, unified voice. As a combined force, it can tackle issues and opportunities along the full forest sector value chain. FPIinnovations’ vision is to be the world leader in creating forest sector solutions to enhance the sector’s global competitiveness.

The new organization will pursue transformative research projects in concert with the shorter-term research, development, extension, and technology transfer programs already established. Cross-divisional research will occur, along with greater cooperation with universities and other R&D facilities. Some of these projects include utilization of the mountain pine beetle-killed resource, bio-economy initiatives, precision forestry, technological support and solutions for industry, and nanotechnology initiatives.

FPIinnovations, Feric Division (previously known as the Forest Engineering Research Institute of Canada), develops and helps implement innovative and safe forest operations solutions. These activities provide members with a long-term competitive advantage, add value to their fibre supply, and support sustainable forestry practices. Feric Division delivers solutions to:

- improve harvesting operations
- reduce transportation and road costs
- make silvicultural treatments more effective
- suppress and manage wildland fires

- promote environmental sustainability
- support implementation of innovative and transformative technologies

Feric Division is partnered with FORREX in British Columbia to administer extension activities that address the forest industry’s need for operational research.

FPIinnovations, Forintek Division (previously known as Forintek Canada Corp.), provides Canadian wood product manufacturers with vital technical and market access support. To improve the competitiveness of the wood products sector, it develops and implements advanced techniques for:


- reducing production costs
- improving productivity
- increasing the quality and variety of wood products

These techniques and other research results are transferred to industry through various extension activities.

FPIinnovations, Paprican Division (previously known as the Pulp and Paper Research Institute of Canada), delivers economical, innovative solutions through research in the pulp and paper industry. Paprican Division’s research programs are driven by the high-priority technical issues of the industry, such as cost competitiveness, product quality and value, environment, and sustainability. Some areas of focus include:

- chemical and mechanical pulps (yields, cost, and quality)
- papermaking processes
- product costs, quality, uniformity, and fibre properties
- environmental protection
- process control

They also offer results-oriented services.

FPIinnovations has 600 employees with research facilities in Quebec City, Montreal, and Vancouver, and technology transfer offices throughout Canada. 

For more information, go to: <http://www.fpiinnovations.ca> or contact Darcy Moshenko, Extension Specialist, FPIinnovations/FORREX at [darcy-m@vcr.feric.ca](mailto:darcy-m@vcr.feric.ca)

### CWFC background

The Canadian Wood Fibre Centre (CWFC) was created by Natural Resources Canada from existing resources within the Canadian Forest Service. While answering to National Resources Canada, the CWFC will take technical direction from FPIinnovations. Although national in scope, its 55 researchers will introduce a strong regional component to address differences in forest ecology and types of government-industry partnerships. As a Division of FPIinnovations, the CWFC will provide upstream or forest-level research to respond to the ever-growing need of the forest industry to increase forest sector competitiveness, thereby complementing the research of FPIinnovations’ other three divisions. The CWFC will focus on improving forest productivity and increasing the value of Canada’s wood fibre resources.