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B.C. Celebrates a Milestone for Canada's Advanced Rare Isotope Laboratory (ARIEL)

(Vancouver, B.C.) — Today, TRIUMF celebrated an important milestone for ARIEL – Canada's Advanced Rare Isotope Laboratory. This event marked the completion of ARIEL-I, the first stage of this new facility, and was attended by distinguished guests, including Andrew Wilkinson, B.C. Minister for Technology, Innovation and Citizen's Services, Dr. Gilles Patry, President of the Canada Foundation for Innovation, and over thirty senior administrators from Canadian universities comprising TRIUMF's Board of Management.

Beginning in 2010, the $62.9M ARIEL-I project included civil construction for the new facility, as well as the design, manufacture, and deployment of a state-of-the-art superconducting electron linear accelerator (e-linac). Completed on time and on budget, ARIEL-I reinforces Canada's competitive advantage in isotope science.

The civil construction for ARIEL-I engaged architects, engineers, and construction partners from across the province. The project presented unique challenges, from radiation shielding to non-disruptive construction within an operational research facility. The remarkable design and engineering achievements of ARIEL-I were recently recognized by the Association of Consulting Engineering Companies British Columbia 2014 Award of Merit, and the Vancouver Regional Construction Association 2014 Gold Award of Excellence.

Researchers and technicians from 13 Canadian universities, led by the University of Victoria, contributed to the design and deployment of the e-linac. TRIUMF also transferred its expertise in the production of superconducting radiofrequency cavities to its industry partner, PAVAC Industries of Richmond, B.C., providing PAVAC with a competitive advantage. Canada is now one of only six nations in the world with the industrial capacity to produce such cavities.

ARIEL-I was supported through a combination of funding from the Government of British Columbia, the Government of Canada through the Canada Foundation for Innovation and the National Research Council, and international collaborators – notably the Variable Energy Cyclotron Centre in Kolkata, India.

ARIEL-II, the next stage of the facility, will unite 19 Canadian university partners and is currently being reviewed by TRIUMF's government, industry, and international partners.

Once ARIEL is fully operational, the facility will triple the scientific capacity for the production of isotopes for science, medicine, and business.

Quotes

"TRIUMF's new ARIEL facility has exciting health, science and employment applications that will benefit British Columbians. With this facility, our province will be uniquely positioned to develop advancements in rare isotope science, medical diagnostics and treatments, and to create jobs and economic opportunities through the commercialization of these technologies."

- Andrew Wilkinson, Minister of Technology, Innovation, and Citizens' Services

"Our government has made record investments in science, technology and innovation to push the boundaries of knowledge, create jobs and prosperity, and improve the quality of life of Canadians. The world-leading research undertaken at TRIUMF meets all of these objectives. I welcome today's milestone achievement, the completion of the ARIEL-I project, and look forward to following the research conducted at this facility and the positive impact it will have on the health and well-being of Canadians."

-The Hon. Ed Holder, PC, MP, Minister of State (Science and Technology)

"The completion of this remarkable project couldn't have happened without the cooperation of the scientific and engineering communities along with the input of governments and the private sector. With their support, researchers working in the ARIEL facility will be able to conduct world-leading bio-molecular and materials research and begin creating the next-generation of medical isotopes that will improve Canada's ability to provide cutting-edge healthcare for its citizens."

-Dr. Gilles Patry, President and CEO, Canada Foundation for Innovation

"The University of Victoria is proud to be the lead university for this world-class facility. ARIEL will push the frontiers of knowledge and have profound impacts in many areas of research, including the health sciences, materials science and environmental remediation."

-Prof. Jamie Cassels, President, University of Victoria

"ARIEL-I represents the strength of the Canadian research community across TRIUMF's university partners, and the collaborative spirit amongst the member institutions who work together in support of global research excellence in nuclear and particle physics. The ARIEL facility further advances TRIUMF's leadership in both fundamental and translational research, and will foster important international collaborations and partnerships."

-Prof. Steven N. Liss, Vice-Principal (Research), Queen's University & Chair, TRIUMF Board of Management

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About TRIUMF

TRIUMF is Canada's national laboratory for particle and nuclear physics. In addition to a globally relevant research program focused on probing the structure and origins of matter and advancing isotopes for science and medicine, TRIUMF and its partner AAPS, Inc. seek to commercialize its technologies for the benefit of all Canadians. Located on the south campus of the University of British Columbia, TRIUMF receives operating support from the Government of Canada through a contribution agreement via National Research Council Canada; and the Government of British Columbia provides capital for new buildings. TRIUMF is owned and operated as a joint venture by a consortium of the following Canadian universities: University of Alberta, University of British Columbia, University of Calgary, Carleton University, University of Guelph, University of Manitoba, McGill University, McMaster University, Université de Montréal, University of Northern British Columbia, Queen's University, University of Regina, Saint Mary's University, Simon Fraser University, University of Toronto, University of Victoria, Western University, University of Winnipeg, and York University. **Visit www.triumf.ca and @TRIUMFLab.**