

CTT Group's International Innovation Network: Implementation & Outcomes

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The CTT Group is a technology transfer center serving the technical textile and flexible material industry in Quebec since 1983. Its activities include laboratory testing, R&D and support to commercialization. Over the years, through the participation of the CTT group team members to conferences, business missions, standardization committees, etc., it has also developed a network of contacts in various universities, research centres and industry consortia, in Canada and also abroad. In some instances, collaborations were established with international contacts either through an informal partnership definition or by signing a memorandum of understanding (MoU). These collaborations have led to formal projects and student exchange; some of these students have become CTT Group's employees or collaborators in Canadian companies, and publications. The international collaborations have enabled the transfer of know-how through courses and sharing of information, access to specialized equipment and expertise, partnership in the organization of joint events, and networking with industrial partners for business development for example.

An illustration of CTT Group's international innovation networking is the R&D project on the development of a smart geocomposite for oil sands tailings processing involving a Quebec geotextile manufacturer, a French drainage products manufacturer, a Canadian consortium of oil sands producers, a French geotechnical research center, and the geosynthetics division of CTT Group. This fruitful partnership allowed several scientific and technical achievements, the development of a successful geocomposite product soon to be field-tested in tailings ponds, the 6-month sojourn of a French Ph.D. student at CTT Group, and several joint publications and presentations in conferences. This project also provided each participant of the project an opportunity to benefit from new perspectives on the subject brought by the international industrial and research partners.