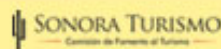


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April 14, 2005

**Section:** BUSINESS

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**Oz Optics Ltd. of Ottawa plans plant at UA park**

*David Wichner, ARIZONA DAILY STAR*

TECH FILE

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Tucson's high-tech economic collaboration with Canada has lured an Ottawa optics company to set up shop at the University of Arizona Science and Technology Park.

Oz Optics Ltd., which designs and make fiber-optics networking components, plans to start a small manufacturing operation here, said Oz executive Marcelo Grinfeld, who is developing the office and laboratory at 9040 S. Rita Road.

Plans call for the company's Tucson location to grow from a few people at the outset to between 15 and 100 workers in the next three years, depending on business conditions, said Grinfeld, Oz's vice president of business development.

"The idea is to start small, start a small manufacturing operation," Grinfeld said. "As we grow, we may add research and development."

Oz, which also has offices in New Jersey, California, Florida, China and Turkey, now has about 120 workers, he said.

Tucson's proximity to California, where Oz has many customers, Tucson's reputation as a center of optics research and the availability of scientists from the UA Optical Sciences Center were major factors in deciding to open here, Grinfeld said.

But the company got its introduction to Tucson through a Tucson-Canada economic development program launched several years ago, he said.

"We got to know each other," Grinfeld said, adding that the company is looking to hire local workers and to sell to local aerospace and defense companies.

Ömür Sezerman, Oz founder, president and CEO, visited Tucson with other company and industry officials in 2003, said John Grabo, director of marketing and international programs at the UA tech park.

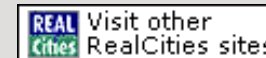
"This is one, but by no means the only benefit of the Tucson-Ottawa relationship," Grabo said, citing joint research initiatives among the UA and Ottawa-based Carle-ton University and the University of Ottawa.

A local optics industry leader said new manufacturing companies are always a welcome addition.



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"It's nice to see it come to fruition," Kathleen Perkins, CEO of **Breault** Research Organization, said of the Tucson-Ottawa link.

"Though there's a lot of research going on, we're short in Tucson for bona fide optics companies with buildings," said Perkins, a board member of the 125-member Arizona Optics Industry Association.

"It's a nice building block and a new opportunity," she said.

**Breault's** founder and chairman, Bob **Breault**, has helped several Canadian cities, including Ottawa and Quebec, establish local optics industry clusters. The globe-trotting **Breault** was in Europe this week and unavailable for comment.

Northrop UAV debuts

Northrop Grumman Corp. recently conducted the first flight of a new configuration of the Army's RQ-5A unmanned aerial vehicle, or UAV, called the Endurance Hunter (E-Hunter).

The company put the E-Hunter through its paces on March 17 at a company flight test facility near Douglas as part of a program to extend the range, endurance and payload capacity of the Hunter system, first fielded in 1996.

The E-Hunter combines the fuselage of the Hunter UAV with a new tail and a longer center wing to create a UAV that can fly missions of up to 30 hours at altitudes of more than 20,000 feet, the company said.

Northrop Grumman employs about 250 workers at a 115,000-square-foot site in Sierra Vista.

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