

**RELEASE**  
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## **PRIMA Québec Announces a Collaborative Research Agreement Between 1Qbit and AWN Nanotech**

**Montreal, November 24, 2020 – Working through PRIMA Québec, the Government of Quebec will grant \$749,044 in financial assistance to 1QBit and AWN Nanotech** for a collaborative agreement that seeks to stimulate innovation in chemistry and nanotechnology through quantum computing. With a total value of \$1,498,088, the initiative will spur innovation that benefits the chemical, energy and environment sectors.

“Quantum technologies have yet to be fully understood,” said Mr. Pierre Fitzgibbon, Minister of economy and innovation. But Québec will continue to play a leading role in this cutting-edge sector through its world-renowned researchers. The partnership between 1QBit and AWN Nanotech demonstrates the contribution of quantum technologies to fundamental research and the development of new industrial technologies. By calling on projects in quantum technology, our government will continue to promote innovation within Quebec’s strategic sectors of activity. This collaboration will highlight the benefits of quantum computing in the drinking water and environmental sectors.”

“Our green atmospheric water capture technology will greatly benefit from quantum simulation and computing,” said Mr. Richard Boudreault, President and CEO of AWN Nanotech. “It will help us understand and optimize the interaction between our carbon nanomaterial sponge and atmospheric water vapour. The proposed incremental approach will also help solve critical issues for both AWN Nanotech and the lithium-ion battery industry.”

“This partnership relies on 1QBit’s key expertise in quantum computing, along with our QEMIST quantum chemistry software tools, in order to address the problems found in AWN Nanotech’s cutting-edge technology,” said Mr. Landon Downs, President of 1QBit. “The initiative is part of our ongoing efforts to accelerate the transfer of technology and knowledge to our Sherbrooke team while promoting growth in Quebec’s quantum ecosystem.”

This project is supported by PRIMA in an effort to generate and advance Quebec’s expertise in key areas of quantum computing. “Thanks to developments in applied quantum computing codes, we can look forward to a number of significant advances in the field of plasmas, lithium and clean technologies,” said Ms. Marie-Pierre Ippersiel, President and CEO of PRIMA Québec. “This partnership also demonstrates the growing interest in quantum technology from an increasing number of strategic sectors in Quebec.”

PRIMA Québec’s financial assistance will help 1QBit and AWN Nanotech develop and apply their quantum simulation-based computing codes to key chemical systems for the development of green

technologies. The collaborative research project will also help train tomorrow's pool of skilled workers while opening up new markets and providing a competitive edge over foreign companies.

#### **About AWN Nanotech**

According to the AFD (Agence française de développement), two-thirds of the world's population will experience water stress before 2025 and more than 1.8 billion people will face complete water shortages. America and Africa's First Nations are among those at risk. AWN Nanotech has developed a unique and internationally recognized proprietary concept and technology based on desert cactus and reptile biomimicry to provide drinking water for at-risk terrestrial populations and industries.

#### **About 1QBit**

With offices in Vancouver, Waterloo and Sherbrooke, 1QBit was founded in 2012 and has become a world leader in high-performance computing and software design. 1QBit develops hardware platform-independent tools and works closely with a variety of companies to solve resource-intensive computing problems in the fields of new materials, life sciences, energy and finance. The company has been recognized by international research institutions and Fortune 500 companies as an industry leader in quantum computing, machine learning, optimization and hardware innovation. 1QBit develops original solutions to computational problems by leveraging expertise that ranges from hardware innovation to commercial applications.

#### **About PRIMA Québec**

PRIMA Québec is an advanced materials research and innovation hub that supports and promotes the advanced materials ecosystem and acts as an engine of innovation and growth in Quebec. Through support and funding, it stimulates the competitiveness of Quebec companies by facilitating access to research expertise. As a Sectoral Industrial Research Group (SIRG), PRIMA Québec relies on financial support from both the Quebec government and the private sector when promoting research/industry relations.

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