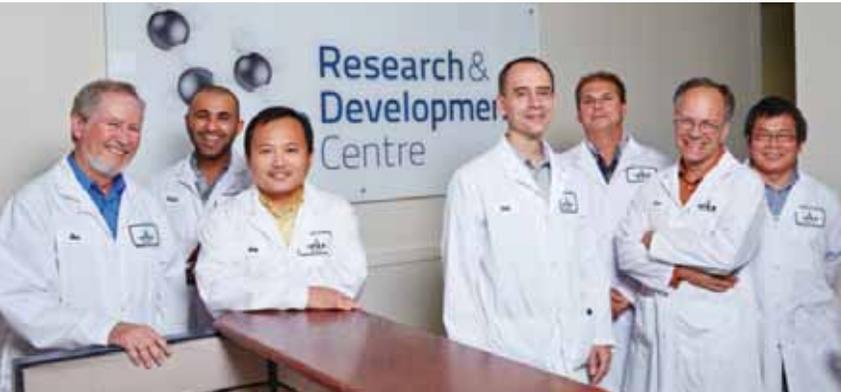


IPEX Opens New R&D Centre



If you haven't already visited the new IPEX R&D facility in Mississauga, you're in for a treat. Opened officially in September at the IPEX Clarkson site, the new Centre is equipped with an array of state-of-the-art testing and manufacturing technology to help IPEX maintain its position as North America's leading manufacturer of integrated piping products.

"There's no question that investing in R&D keeps us at the forefront of the industry," believes Trevor Johnston, newly named Vice President of Innovation. "We have the expertise to develop specialized thermoplastics and innovative new products that are critical to our customers' success. By decreasing development time and bringing new products to market faster, we're giving our customers a tangible competitive advantage."

The facility was constructed over the past year. Capabilities include a specialized blending lab to prepare formulations, sample fabrication and preparation rooms, physical and chemical testing labs, dedicated injection molding and extrusion equipment, as well as 3D printers for creating prototypes. Researchers are testing for product strength, impact performance, chemical compatibility and thermal behavior, among other characteristics.

Of course, the finest labs need exceptional people to run them. Our full-time staff of PhD-level scientists, chemical and mechanical engineers, process engineers and technicians combines nearly 250 years of experience; 100 of those years have been spent developing products at IPEX. Their work falls into two categories: New Product Research and Support Services.

New Product Research typically occurs in tandem with our Innovation and Product Design teams. Projects focus on developing new materials as well as testing prototypes for such properties as aging, UV resistance and physical endurance. Teams also conduct pre-certification testing, and regularly assess how ingredients will behave in certain formulations to increase performance and manage cost.

Support Services are a critical element of R&D efforts. The R&D team collaborates with IPEX Sales, Manufacturing, Supply Chain, Technical Services and Project Engineering groups to help accomplish several goals: refining our molding and extrusion processes, boosting product performance, supporting customers with product application knowledge, and determining how ingredients affect cost and performance.

"This new facility emphasizes IPEX's commitment to supply our customers with innovative, value-added thermoplastic solutions" says IPEX Chairman and CEO Alex Mestres. "We will continue to invest in market-leading R&D, dedicating more people than ever to developing products our customers need to get projects up and running faster, easier, more dependably and more profitably."