

Ontario helps company grow smart light technology

By Dominik Kurek
OAKVILLE BEAVER STAFF

An Oakville innovative technology company is getting financial help from the Ontario government to expand its business that could help customers

reduce as much as 50 per cent of their energy consumption.

Fifth Light Technology Ltd., formed 12 years ago, has developed an automated light-dimming technology, which, among other things, can reduce a bulb's electrical con-

sumption in daylight.

To expand its business, the Fifth Light Technology has received a \$3.75-million grant from the Province. The grant is in addition to the \$25 million Fifth Light Technology is investing to expand its opera-

tions.

The expansion will increase the company's production capacity; allow it to take on larger projects and to develop further technological advancements. That money will also see its workforce grow from 17 to 108 over the next five years.

Sandra Pupatello, the Ontario minister for economic development and trade, congratulated the company during a press conference last Thursday at Fifth Light Technology's office on North Service Road West.

"We're (the Province) excited about (the technology) because it dramatically changes the economics of people who build buildings and you can go out there and tell them we've got a great way to reduce consumption because of a system that's in the lighting," she said.

"Fifth Light Technology has made cutting edge technology to promote energy conservation and that's what our Premier (Dalton McGuinty) has been talking about."

She said the Ontario government is on the forefront of developing green technologies such as this one.

"To use less energy, we need to build less energy and it also happens to be the right thing to do," she said.

Dr. Joseph Dableh, Fifth Light president and CEO, thanked the minister and the Ontario government for its support.

"This investment gives us a



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HERE'S HOW: Fifth Light Technology Limited's Tony Dableh (right) demonstrates the light control system from a personal computer for Minister of Economic Development and Trade Sandra Pupatello and Oakville MPP Kevin Flynn. In the background is Dr. Joseph Dableh, Fifth Light president and CEO.

heightened ability to deliver on upcoming contracts using a groundbreaking system we wholeheartedly believe in," he said.

In an interview afterwards, Ray Dableh, director of research and development at the company, said advanced energy management and automation provides daylight harvesting technology, which can auto-dim each light fixture on an individual basis depending on ambient light. It also networks the fixtures, so they can be controlled and managed in an intelligent way.

He said users will have control of the lights through things such as a web portal or through a Voice Over IP telephone or even a Blackberry or Apple mobile device.

"It will send e-mails when

bulbs need to be replaced and it tracks the energy consumed by each fixture in terms of greenhouse gases, kilowatt-hours or any other environmental equivalency that you want to program into the system," he said. "It's 12 years in the making and we're still very active in pushing the boundaries."

The company estimates commercial buildings can save 50 per cent in energy costs in buildings using the technology.

"I can't imagine if I owned a commercial building in Ontario today not putting this in. This pays for itself," said Oakville MPP Kevin Flynn. "This is clean, green technology, that's not only good for Oakville and Ontario, it's going to clean up emissions around the world."

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