

Ottawa is a proud home to Nortel's R&D prowess

Ottawa is home to Nortel's global R&D headquarters, with more than 4,000 employees focusing on advanced wireless and wireline networking and software, applications, services and solutions for both the carrier and enterprise markets around the globe

Fast facts

Corporate profile

An R&D powerhouse, by year end 2007, Nortel had approximately 3,650 US patents and approximately 1,650 patents in other countries. It has been reported by industry analyst IFI Plenum that, in 2006, Nortel ranked 69th in terms of number of patents granted by the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office. Nortel has ranked in the top 70 in terms of number of granted U.S. patents since 1998.

Why Ottawa

Nortel's longstanding presence in Ottawa has also spawned more than 200 other companies in the region, based on the premise that either Nortel people or Nortel technology are the basis for the foundation of the new company. As the anchor high-tech company for the region, Nortel's presence has also attracted the R&D labs of competitors and partners alike, including Alcatel, RIM, Cisco, Microsoft and IBM.

Business advantage

Not just in its labs, but in the marketplace and with customers, Nortel is driving innovations in unified communications, the unwired enterprise, voice over IP, next-generation (4G) broadband wireless networks, and advanced applications, services, and solutions for both service providers and enterprises.

Since its founding in 1895 as Northern Electric and Manufacturing, supplying telephone equipment for Canada's fledgling telecommunications industry, Nortel Networks has grown to become a global leader in delivering communications capabilities that enhance the human experience, power global commerce, and secure and protect the world's most critical information. The company's Ottawa roots go back to 1961, when an executive named Cy Peachey helped open an R&D lab in the city with 42 engineers.



Canada's Innovation Capital

Within five years the company's "R&D engine" had grown to 800 people, and today Ottawa is home to Nortel's global R&D headquarters with more than 4,000 employees focusing on advanced wireless and wireline networking, and software, applications, services and solutions for both the carrier and enterprise markets around the globe.

Nortel's breadth of R&D investment in technology innovation is reflected in the company's patents portfolio. A strong patents portfolio is not only essential for protecting the company's position but also for staking its claim in the future. Nortel's strong history of innovation – rooted in Ottawa but now extending to R&D centres in the U.S., U.K., China, India, Turkey, and Korea – has resulted in the issuance of numerous and significant patents in areas key to the future. The bulk of these patents have emanated out of the company's Ottawa labs.

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Relying on this R&D foundation, hundreds of millions of people, Fortune 500 companies, and government institutions around the world trust their networks to Nortel's reliable and secure solutions.

Nortel has established itself as a recognized leader in delivering communications capabilities that make the promise of Business Made Simple a reality for its customers in more than 150 countries around the world. The company's next-generation technologies, for both service provider and enterprise networks, support multimedia and business-critical applications, and are designed to help eliminate today's barriers to efficiency, speed and performance by simplifying networks and connecting people to the information they need, when they need it.

Why Ottawa

Nortel's Ottawa R&D campus is totally at home in a region that boasts the second largest concentration of science and engineering employment out of 316 North American cities, surpassed only by Silicon Valley in California. One in nine employees in Ottawa is a scientist or engineer.

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Nortel also complements its in-house R&D through external research with universities, strategic alliances, partnerships, and joint ventures with other best-in-class companies, in order to gain access to technical expertise; expand product offerings; access new platform technologies; increase R&D productivity; gain more cost-effective time-to-market; and/or increase the company's access to markets and customers.

Among Nortel's most strategic partnerships are those with Microsoft and IBM (which are accelerating the implementation of voice technology into software and opening new markets for Nortel) and LG Electronics, which provides access to the "early-adopter" Korean market. Recently, Nortel has also made a number of small, targeted technology acquisitions with Novera Optics, Pingtel, and Diamondware.

Future growth plans

"The phenomenon of Hyperconnectivity is placing increasing demands on our industry, but it is also driving a potentially huge opportunity," said Nortel's CEO Mike Zafirovski. "Some of the pillars that drive Hyperconnectivity – unified communications, 4G wireless broadband, and 10G Ethernet and related applications – are expected to grow in excess of 35% annually. Focusing on these high-growth areas, in a strategic way, will help us establish entry points for increasing growth and relevance in key customer segments."

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