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Canadian Government Initiates Program to Accelerate Domestic QC Commercial Capabilities

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RECENT DEVELOPMENT

The Canadian government recently [announced](#) the launch of Phase 1 of the \$92 million Canadian Quantum Champions Program (CQCP) designed to accelerate the domestic development of fault-tolerant quantum computers that demonstrate industrial application. For this phase, the government has signed agreements worth up to \$23 million each with four Canadian-headquartered QC suppliers: Anyon Systems, Nord Quantique, Photonic and Xanadu Quantum Technologies. Additional plans call for the CQCP to establish the Benchmarking Quantum Platform initiative to undertake an expert assessment of underlying quantum technologies, working closely with the companies. Details about later phases of the CQCP, including funding, milestones and requirements, will be provided as the program advances. This announcement supports the forthcoming near \$60 billion Canadian Defense Industrial Strategy, targeted in part to foster a more resilient and enduring Canadian defense industrial base.

ANALYST COMMENT

The Canadian government, like counterparts around the world, is looking to accelerate its domestic commercial QC sector to drive economic growth and to have an assured domestic supply of leading QC systems to support key military applications that, according to the Canadian government, include cryptography, advanced materials, signal processing and pattern recognition for threat analysis. The new CQCP program is notably reminiscent of the US-based DARPA Quantum Benchmarking Initiative centered on assessing QC vendors offerings for technical feasibility, scalability, and reliability. To date DARPA has selected 11 QC companies, three of which are Canadian companies selected for the CQCP, and each to receive \$15 million over 12 months to develop a detailed QC research plan for potential future prototype development. As the QC sector continues to mature, government support will likely shift emphasis from basic R&D funding to technical and financial support to the QC vendors that can best meet national security application requirements. For their part, commercial participants can benefit from the cash infusion, expert technical support, and the credibility gained by being selected for such programs. It remains to be seen, however, if these programs can effectively select and support the appropriate mix of commercial QC-vendors and the extent to which such decisions can hold sway on the status and prospects of those that are selected and those that are not.

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