History
In 2000, a group of visionary civic entrepreneurs came together with business, academic and government partners to implement a big idea: They would create a world-leading innovation hub on the historic site of the Toronto General Hospital.

This hub would drive innovation through new collaborations between science and technology innovators, entrepreneurs, business leaders, investors and policy-makers. It would provide the unique physical infrastructure, as well as the talent and the networks required to bring Canada’s most important discoveries to market and launch our next generation of growth companies.

These leaders donated $14 million — mobilizing nearly $600 million in private and public funding over the decade that followed — to develop the MaRS Centre.

The importance of place
The MaRS Centre opened in late 2005:

- Located in the heart of one of the world’s most productive research clusters — Toronto’s Discovery District
- Situated in one of the world’s most diverse, entrepreneurial and creative cities

The MaRS Centre: A platform to accelerate Canadian innovation

- 100 diverse tenants (startups, mid-size companies and multinationals, investors, researchers, community developers, professional service firms and retailers)
- 2,500 innovative people work here every day
- 2,000 meetings and events annually, with 100,000 attendees

MaRS is expanding: 20-storey Phase 2 tower opened in 2014

Governance
MaRS is a not-for-profit registered charity overseen by a distinguished private sector Board of Directors.

MaRS’ programs are funded by the proceeds of the MaRS Centre and its services, and through generous support from a range of stakeholders, including the governments of Ontario and Canada, private donors, corporate sponsors and foundations.

Visit us at marsdd.com
Generating value at a critical time

Extraordinary effort and significant investment have gone into building the MaRS Centre and our unique programs over the past 15 years — all to strengthen our innovation economy in the decades ahead.

We are already seeing the results:

- From 2008-2013, MaRS venture clients grew **5-7 times faster** than MaRS’ operating expenses despite the global recession
- To put this in context, the compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of Canada’s GDP was **2.7%** during this period

MaRS’ innovation capacity is more important than ever to the future of Ontario and our country. Global competition is fierce. Other regions are aggressively building their knowledge economies. To succeed, Canada must be an innovation nation.

Building high-impact ventures

Young, high-growth firms are critical job engines in the new economy, bringing important new products and services to national and international markets. MaRS helps entrepreneurs launch and grow these ambitious ventures.

Market intelligence:
- **$96 million** worth of market intelligence provided free of charge to entrepreneurs (2009-2014)

Expert advice & mentorship:
- **1,000 promising venture clients** annually receive hands-on support from expert MaRS staff and seasoned volunteer advisors

Connections to customers and capital:
- **$500 million** in revenue generated by MaRS venture clients (2011-2013), **$200 million** of which was generated in 2013 alone (**55% export revenue**)
- **$1 billion in capital** raised by MaRS venture clients (2011-2013), **$450 million** of which was raised in 2013 alone (**78% from private sources**)
- **6,500 jobs** created by MaRS venture clients
- **$70 million in capital** directly managed by MaRS in three active seed funds

Our sectors

MaRS is a member of

Ontario Network of Entrepreneurs

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