



The Engineering Institute of Canada

2020 Award Citation

Julian C. Smith Medal

(recognizes achievement in the development of Canada)



Robert Boily

Nominated by IEEE Canada

Robert Boily is a high-ranking researcher and a science & engineering advisor to governments, academia and the industry. His career spans more than 40 years at the cutting edge of discovery. He conducted more than 1000 research projects in science and engineering programs totalling over 900 million dollars, and contributed to the development of numerous fields of research in Canada such as aerospace, nanotechnology, energy, 3D vision, lasers, electronics and advanced materials.

His work had a major impact on Canada's innovation capability, enabling massive research funding, creating hundreds of high-level jobs and new startup companies spun off from academia, and moving new technologies from laboratory concepts to real-life applications. He was commissioned repeatedly by the Government of Canada to conduct projects of great importance for the nation, especially in the fields of clean energy, space exploration and defence technologies.

Robert also fostered international research cooperation and was instrumental to the creation of many partnerships between corporations and universities from Canada and those from the United States, Europe and Asia-Pacific. His distinguished contributions to the development of Canada have been recognized with numerous awards and honours from national and international authorities.

Ladies and gentlemen, and Mr. President, please welcome Robert Boily as a recipient of the Julian C Smith Medal of the Engineering Institute of Canada.