THE NORTH AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT (NAFTA)

The NAFTA expands Canada's free-trade area of 270 million people into a market of 360 million — a market larger than the population of the 15 countries of the European Union and one with a total North American output of \$7 trillion.

Mexico is Canada's most important trading partner in Latin America. Two-way merchandise trade with Mexico exceeded \$5.5 billion in 1994 and is expected to exceed \$7 billion by the end of the decade.

Canadian direct investment in Mexico is growing rapidly, increasing from \$452 million in 1992 to over \$1.2 billion in 1994.

This guide has been prepared with the problems inherent to the new exporter in mind. However, it is not exhaustive. The differing circumstances, interests and needs of individual companies will influence their strategies for the Mexican market.

Further assistance can be obtained by addressing requests to:

the provincial International Trade Centres (see Where To Get Help) or contact the InfoCentre at:

Tel.: 1-800-267-8376 or (613) 944-4000 Fax: (613) 996-9709 FaxLink: (613) 944-4500

InfoCentre Bulletin Board (IBB): 1-800-628-1581 or (613) 944-1581

TABLE OF CONTENTS

OPENING UP TO HIGH TECHNOLOGY	1
THE COMPUTER INDUSTRY	8
THE INDUSTRIAL AUTOMATION SUBSECTOR	11
THE GEOMATICS SUBSECTOR	13
THE OFFICE AUTOMATION SUBSECTOR	15
THE ROLE OF IMPORTS	16
Customers	17
Financial Sector Government Agencies Retail and Wholesale Distribution Manufacturing and Processing Service Sector Educational Institutions	18 18 19 21 22 22
Competition	22
Mexican Competitors	24
TRENDS AND OPPORTUNITIES	25
Installed Base Geomatics Industrial Automation Online Services Product Opportunities Competitive Factors Consulting Opportunities	26 27 28 29 30 31 31
THE REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT	32
Software Piracy Government Computer Policy Proposals of the Public Consultation Forum	32 33 . 34

