

The technological relationship between Canada and France benefits from the natural affinity between France and Quebec, but the relationship could be improved by more contacts everywhere in Canada.

C. Activities

Canada can benefit concretely from French and European technology through scientific interchanges and cooperation programs; the acquisition of technology through contracts, licences or procurement; technology partnerships and partnerships for working together on R&D; complementary technological interchanges; and strategic alliances, joint ventures, and investment.

The purpose of the following action plan is to help Canada benefit to the utmost from the tremendous scientific and technological capabilities of France and Europe.

- i) Following the approval in 1999 of its Long Term Space Plan, the Canadian Space Agency entered discussions with the Centre national d'études spatiales (CNES) and the European Space Agency (ESA) to decide upon new cooperative projects to encourage industrial alliances. The Canadian Space Agency will join forces with Canadian corporations in order to help reach commercial and R&D agreements with large contractors in France. These activities will be carried out as the need arises in consultation with other government departments and with the participation of the S&T counsellor at the Canadian Embassy in Paris.
- ii) Report on political events pertaining to S&T that are relevant to Canada, and study twice a year all the large research organizations in the French public sector that might provide cooperative research opportunities for Canadians.
- iii) Provide pro-active support for the coordinators of the Canadian sector appointed by the Canada-France Joint Commission on Scientific Interchanges by encouraging and supporting ongoing contacts between them and their French counterparts, especially through periodical meetings between Embassy personnel and the coordinators of the French sector and provide support for liaison with the institutions.
- iv) Together with government departments and agencies with a scientific vocation, target each year a sector to which Canada has access under the European Union's R&D programs and encourage the creation of partnerships between researchers and small research businesses in Canada and France, for example through workshops and conferences; follow up by arranging for at least one related event. The sectors that are currently emphasized are biotechnology, remote sensing and telematics applications, and information technology. The choice of sectors will adhere closely to the topics of the Fifth Framework Program of the EU.
- v) Support the attempts of the National Research Council of Canada (NRC) to explore possible cooperation between the Agence nationale pour la valorisation de la recherche (ANVAR) in France and IPAP in Canada and evaluate their effectiveness in regard to cooperation between small and medium businesses in France and Canada.
- vi) Select every year a key emerging technology in France. Collect and distribute basic information about its potential interest to researchers, businesses, and national sectoral teams that might be able to benefit from it.