

You will see from Slide 1 that the IRAP Network stretches from coast to coast in Canada. We have over 200 professional scientists and engineers with industrial management experience working as Industrial Technology Advisors or as Project Managers, helping Canadian firms acquire and apply new technological expertise. The IRAP mandate, shown in Slide 2, is to "Help with Technology". We aim to add to a company's technical competence by facilitating its access to the best possible sources of technical expertise and, where appropriate, by supporting the personnel costs of development projects carrying high technical risk. Our resources, shown in Slide 3, connect all the major sources of technological development in Canada - and abroad - with our client community, Canadian industry.

IRAP is composed internally of two networks: the Field Network and the Laboratory Network. Slide 4 shows a breakdown of the Field Network's 160 Industrial Technology Advisors. As you see, only 60 are direct employees of the National Research Council, while the remainder are employees of Provincial Research Organizations, other research institutes and member firms of the Association of Consulting Engineers of Canada. IRAP has a contractual agreement with each of these bodies whereby varying numbers of their employees work full-time or part-time for IRAP as Industrial Technology Advisors. By engaging these organizations directly in IRAP's industrial support activities, we have strengthened their links with industry and added significantly to our own technological base.

Slide 5 shows the substantial growth of the IRAP Field Network over the past five years. This expansion of our personnel and our regional office locations, together with our continuing creativity in program delivery, reflects IRAP's policy of constantly enlarging the scope and effectiveness of our outreach to industry. Support to industry via the IRAP Field Network has increased from 5.5 million