OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONSULTING AND OTHER SERVICES

Mexico has a small number of universities and research centers that carry out world-class scientific research. The *Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM)*, National Autonomous University of Mexico, is one of the world's largest universities and has a number of research departments that work with chemicals. The *Instituto Tecnológico de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (ITESM)*, often referred to as Monterrey Tech, is a leading private university that has several campuses and focuses on technological subjects.

Other Mexican universities well known for research and development are the *Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana (UAM)* Metropolitan Autonomous University, and the *Instituto Nacional Politécnico (INP)*, National Polytechnic Institute, which houses the *Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios Avanzados (Cinestav)*, Center for Research and Advanced Studies.

Notwithstanding these assets, officials of the technological committee at the *Cámara Nacional de la Industria de la Transformación (Canacintra)*, National Chamber of Manufacturing Industries, said in interviews that there is insufficient government support for research and development (R&D) in the chemical industry. The officials believe that more research support is essential of the industry is to reach its potential. More specifically, they believe that *Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología (Conacyt)*, the National Chamber of Science and Technology, should increase funding for chemical research. In spite of these concerns, the government has continued to rely on the private sector.

This suggests opportunities for Canadian companies. They possess technologies that could be adapted and applied in Mexico, as well as the know-how to run training programs associated with technology transfer. Observers believe that companies with a proven track record and a specific project proposal will be more successful in obtaining aid or concessions through *Conacyt* than speculative research ventures.