

There are no reliable estimates of the size of the Mexican geomatics market. According to officials of the *Banco Nacional de Obras y Servicios Públicos (BANOBRAS)*, National Bank for Construction and Public Works, the cadastral update program has a budget of N \$240 million pesos in 1995 and N \$320 million pesos in 1996. Industry observers estimate that this program constitutes half of the public sector market, which is 80 percent of the total market. This implies a total 1995 market of about N \$600 million pesos. Depending on where the peso stabilizes, that will be roughly US \$120 million.

THE 100 MEDIUM CITIES PROGRAM

As of 1994, US \$50 million has been spent on cadastral work, about 70 percent of it financed through the Banco Nacional de Obras y Servicios Públicos (BANOBRAS), the National Bank for Construction and Public Works.

One of Mexico's most pressing regional development problems has been ongoing migration from rural areas to the largest cities, especially Mexico City, Guadalajara, Monterrey and Puebla. Partly because of poor planning and the lack of information, urban growth has been almost completely uncontrolled, leading to severe environmental degradation and overloaded social services.

To counter these deleterious effects, the *Secretaría de Desarrollo Social (SEDESOL)*, Secretariat of Social Development, has embarked on a massive program to develop 114 medium-sized cities. Known as *Programa de las 100 Ciudades*, the 100 Medium Cities Program, it has the goal of creating an attractive alternative for rural migrants, to encourage balanced growth and to reduce environmental impacts.

The designated cities are distributed across all of Mexico's 31 states. The program encompasses infrastructure development, pollution abatement and the development of social service facilities. Each of the cities has been assigned to one of four project phases, depending on their priority for development. The program began in 1990, and the second phase was scheduled for completion in 1994.

The overall program is guided by full mapping and geographic zoning of each city. A copy of this information must be provided by the municipality to *SEDESOL*, which is building a large database. About one-quarter of the cities were mapped during the first two phases of the program. In each city, the typical project duration is three years from initial planning to completion of cadastral work.

The long-term goal is for these projects to be self-funding through increases in tax collection. Property taxes in Mexico go largely uncollected because of the lack of reliable cadastral data, and some estimates predict a 90 percent increase in tax collections as a result of the program. Private industry will eventually pay for about one-quarter of development costs. Initial funding and support is being provided by the federal government. The state or municipality usually provides