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A R K E T S U M M A R Y - M E X I C O

# Ocean and Marine Shipboard Technology



## THE OPPORTUNITY

Mexico enjoys the benefits of immense ocean resources. But for the most part, technological inadequacies have prevented the full development of these assets:

- *Petróleos Mexicanos (Pemex)*, the national oil company, is inefficient and only recently has begun to modernize with foreign help.
- Ocean science research is limited to the universities and public research centres that lack an industrial focus.
- Fishing boats are small and under-equipped, especially in terms of electronics. The tuna and shrimp fisheries are under attack by environmentalists.
- Mexico's merchant ships carry only about 3 percent of the nation's ocean cargo, and its ports handle only one-third of overseas traffic.
- The ocean environment has been severely damaged by municipal and industrial pollution, especially oil spills from *Pemex* facilities.

Canadian expertise in all of these areas will create continuing opportunities as Mexico's economic development proceeds.

## MEXICO'S OCEANS

Navigating the world's oceans and harvesting their vast resources has always been one of humanity's greatest challenges. There are enormous practical problems. The oceans are a vast environment, characterized by a rough surface, strong currents and highly variable weather. Undersea operations are hampered by high water pressure, extremely cold temperatures and poor visibility. Therefore, ocean and marine technology is a highly diverse discipline, devoted to solving the myriad of problems found in, on and beneath the oceans. Certain shore-based maritime activities, such as ports and aquaculture, are becoming more closely associated with ocean and marine technologies.

The search for more sophisticated solutions to this broad set of problems has become more pressing in recent decades. The globalization of commerce, growing sensitivity to environmental issues, and competition between nations for access to marine wildlife and undersea resources have all contributed to this trend.

## SUMMARY REPORT

In addition to this market summary, the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) has prepared a market profile entitled **Opportunities in Mexico: Ocean and Marine Shipboard Technology**. This market information on Mexican **Ocean and Marine Shipboard Technology** has been produced and published by Prospectus Inc. under contract with DFAIT, along with other market profiles and summaries on business opportunities in Mexico. It is available from:

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