

DOCS

CA1
EA679
C13
March
1997

LIBRARY E A / BIBLIOTHÈQUE A E
3 5036 01029683 1

CANADA

INVESTMENT NEWS

MARCH 1997

Hitachi investment in Saskatoon plant tops \$20 million with latest expansion

LATEST ISSUE
DERNIER
NUMERO

T

he plant that Hitachi Canadian Industries Ltd. (HCL) operates near Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, has a unique claim on history. Established in 1989 to manufacture turbines for hydroelectric generators, it was the first Japanese-owned heavy-equipment plant built on foreign soil. Since then, Hitachi has invested over \$20 million in a series of expansions to accommodate steadily increasing demand for its products.

Recently the company announced the opening of a new chapter in the plant's history: a \$3-million upgrading and expansion project which will allow HCL to broaden both its product line and its markets.

In addition to the large turbine casings which are its stock-in-trade, the Saskatoon plant will now manufacture smaller turbine components to meet the after-market demand for replacement parts in established installations. Hitherto, Hitachi has produced these in Japan. Joe Vidal, General Manager,

says that the Saskatoon plant will now become the main production centre for the U.S., Australia and Latin America. To meet these responsibilities, HCL is constructing a new building, installing additional production machinery and hiring 30 additional machinists and engineers, bringing its workforce to 170.

Operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week, the plant now exports 65 per cent of its output to the United States and 30 per cent to Japan. Its globe-spanning customer base includes General Electric, Westinghouse and the Tokyo Electric Power Company.

Vidal tells *Canada Investment News* that the plant won its new mandate through inherent competitive strengths and an outstanding six-year track record.

"This location has many advantages and, without any doubt, the item at the top of the list is human resources. Most of

Also in this issue...

Composites Atlantique gears up	3
BioClean Fuels builds \$685-million clean energy plant in Alberta	4
Baxter Corporation spends \$2 million to upgrade Sherbrooke plant	4
Astra completes first phase of \$300-million research complex in Montreal	6
International investment group buys into Canada's Power Measurement Ltd.	8
Xerox invests \$25.5 million to expand R&D facility in Mississauga	9
Sun Microsystems picks Primetech	10
Newfoundland offers investors a new incentive package	11
Growing with Canada	12

Please see **HITACHI** page 2