

Canada Reports

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New directions

This is the first issue of *Canada Reports*, a new periodical to be published twice monthly by the Department of External Affairs.

Canada Reports replaces *Canada Weekly*. While continuing to keep its readers informed of new directions in Canadian foreign policy and affairs, it will place special emphasis on Canadian trade, industrial and technological developments.

An index, to be published quarterly as an insert, will facilitate reference to articles in previous issues.

Readers' comments and suggestions, as well as their questions about items that have appeared in *Canada Reports* will be welcome and should be sent to The Editor, *Canada Reports*, at the address shown on page 8 of each issue.

Cette publication existe également en français sous le titre *Reportage Canada*.

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Offshore Europe: From drilling to diving

The latest in advanced offshore technology and equipment designed to endure the world's toughest offshore conditions, as well as consulting services in all areas of offshore engineering, are being offered by 13 Canadian companies at Offshore Europe '85 in Aberdeen, Scotland, September 10 to 13.

Products on display at the Canadian exhibit, sponsored by the Department of External Affairs, vary from exploration, processing and surveying equipment to specialized support equipment. Included are airborne remote sensing equipment for offshore exploration; lifting and salvage balloons for oil containment and emergency flotation; deck and drill rig machinery; disc oil skimmers used to clean up oil spills; and quality oil well casing and tubing couplings. Heavy equipment manufacturers are displaying products such as drilling rigs, drilling ships and platforms, and large-volume processing equipment.

Modern technology

Among the highlights are the most recent products from three companies that provide state-of-the-art technology in offshore underwater survey equipment, seismic sub-bottom profiling equipment and life-support systems for divers.

International Submarine Engineering Limited has introduced the first autonomous underwater vehicle in the world, the Autonomous Acoustically Remotely Controlled Submersible (ARCS) for offshore surveying; Hunttec (70) Limited has presented the Hydrosonde SeaOtter Subbottom Profiler

for obtaining seabed survey information; and Nova Scotia Research Corp. has developed the New External Environment Conditioning System (ECS).

Autonomous surveys

The ARCS represents a major breakthrough in offshore survey equipment in that it requires no physical link to surface support facilities. It can follow a computer-operated pre-programmed course within a range of 150 kilometres at depths of over 300 metres and automatically avoid obstacles, using its own radar. An operator can also intervene to change programs or take over manual control.

Battery-supplied power enables the ARCS to operate at 5 knots an hour for up to 20 hours. In addition, the ARCS features fault tolerance which allows the vehicle to find its way back to its starting point despite the failure of any single component.

International Submarine, which has produced more than 125 pipeline inspection, platform maintenance and drillship support underwater vehicles, is planning to build a number of autonomous vehicles based on the ARCS prototype. They are being designed to operate not only under ice, but also in deep ocean and in oil patches.

Extended searches

The Hydrosonde SeaOtter is the newest of a series of Hunttec's high-resolution seismic sub-bottom profilers, which are also available with side scan sonar.



Canada's largest shipyard, Versatile Davie Inc., builds drilling rigs, drilling ships, production platforms, support vessels and other heavy-duty equipment, to specification.