

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

**T**echnology is the practical knowledge that is used to develop the products, processes and services that keep firms internationally competitive. In an increasingly technology-intensive global economy, knowing what the technology development environment is abroad and how to gain access to technology in other countries is imperative. ● ●

*The purpose of this document is to describe, in succinct fashion, the technological trends and research programs in selected countries. The reader should note that this document is merely a snapshot of S&T activity in these countries, and provides a guide to some of the more visible activities.*

*These countries are serviced by the Science and Technology Counsellor and Technology Development Officer Network of External Affairs and International Trade Canada. The Science and Technology Counsellors, in eight posts abroad, monitor scientific and technological developments and respond to requests from Canadian organizations about technological opportunities. The Counsellors, in conjunction with Technology Development Officers, facilitate technology acquisition and technology transfer, and familiarize Canadian firms with the business practices and operations of science and technology organizations in foreign countries.*

*This document is designed with the needs of Canada's small and medium sized business sectors in mind.*

*This initiative is undertaken to facilitate international technology transfer and research co-operation between Canadian firms and technology development organizations and their counterparts abroad.*

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