

# Geomatics Services



## THE OPPORTUNITY

- There are substantial opportunities in Mexico for Canadian companies that provide the equipment, software and services used to support geographical information systems.
- Three-quarters of Mexico's geographic information is out of date. Mexican states and municipalities will spend US \$200 million on cadastral systems by 1997.
- Financing for state and municipal geomatics expenditures are heavily subsidized by the Mexican federal government.
- The Mexican geomatics industry is underdeveloped and dependent on imported technology. State and municipal governments have little in-house expertise in geomatics.
- INEGI and SEDESOL, the main Mexican government agencies responsible for mapping and cadastral projects, have purchased Canadian-developed information systems. INEGI has adopted Canadian cartographic standards.
- In the medium term, demand for advanced services from foreign suppliers will increase.
- Short-term opportunities are limited by Mexico's economic crisis, but changing priorities provide an opportunity for new suppliers and technologies.

## MAPPING MEXICO

Since the late 1980s, Mexico has been engaged in a sweeping endeavor to establish a market economy, modernize its industries and equip its producers to compete in global markets. The rebuilding

of the nation's outdated infrastructure is a major part of this effort.

Although a good deal has already been accomplished, progress has been severely hampered by a lack of geographic, demographic and cadastral information.

Cadastral surveys are those that identify every discrete plot of land by owner. They are used primarily for land-use zoning and property taxation purposes. A cadastre is a public register of real property. The lack of adequate municipal cadastral data means that only a very small proportion of property taxes in Mexico are ever collected.

To compound the problem, almost 80 percent of the geographic information held by the *Instituto Nacional de Estadística, Geografía e Informática (INEGI)*, National Institute for Statistics, Geography and Informatics, is considered out of date. This creates major problems for the *Secretaría de Desarrollo Social (SEDESOL)*, Secretariat of Social Development, which is the largest user of geographic, demographic and cadastral information. To fill the information gap, SEDESOL has embarked on a massive program to completely

## 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: Geomatics Services**. This market information on the Mexican Geomatics market 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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The market profiles are available in electronic form from the IBB and in hard copy at a cost of \$10.00 plus shipping and applicable taxes, from Prospectus Inc. Please contact:

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 Order Department  
 Tel.: (613) 231-2727  
 Fax: (613) 237-7666

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 Cat. No. 9/38-1995-1E  
 ISBN 0-662-23187-2  
 Disponible en français.

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Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade / Ministère des Affaires étrangères et du Commerce international