

Canada Reports

Ottawa
Canada

Volume 2, No. 4
February 19, 1986



1986 World Exposition -
Vancouver, BC
May 2 - October 13

Surveillance drones for sales abroad

Two funding agreements providing for the pre-production of two military intelligence-gathering devices, the *CL-289* surveillance drone (unmanned air vehicle) and the remotely-piloted *CL-227 Sentinel*, developed by Canadair Limited of Montreal, have been signed by the Canadian government. It is expected that the surveillance systems will be sold to military forces in a number of countries including the United States, West Germany and France.

Canada will provide \$20 million and West Germany \$60 million and both countries will share production equally. Canadair will be the prime contractor and systems manager and Dornier GmbH of West Germany will be prime subcontractor. Société anonyme de télécommunications of France will produce the infra-red data systems.

Mr. Stevens said the *CL-289* agreement was Canada's "biggest-ever defence devel-

opment venture with its European allies". The Canadian content of expected sales could exceed \$800 million by 1995, he added.

The missile-shaped *CL-289* is an extended version of the Canadair *CL-89*, which has been used by the military in West Germany, Britain, France and Italy since the 1970s.

Canadair built more than 600 of the *CL-89* drones, designed for use by division commanders. They are rocket-launched, fly a pre-programmed course and are sustained in flight by a small jet engine. The imaging system includes a television camera and an infra-red line scan sensor.

Once an area has been surveyed, the drone returns to a selected recovery area and parachutes to the ground where the imaging package can be retrieved.

The new *CL-289*, designed to cover an army corps area, has a longer range than the *CL-89*. Electronic sensors aboard the drone allow images of the area being surveyed to be recorded and transmitted back to the command base while the unit is in flight.



Canadair's booster-launched *CL-289* surveillance drone is being produced as a result of one of Canada's largest defence development agreements with West Germany and France.

The agreements, which were announced by Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion Sinclair Stevens, Minister of Mines Robert Layton and Treasury Board President Robert de Cotret, are expected to create 400 long-term jobs at Canadair and another 100 across the country and produce some \$1 billion in sales over the next decade.

Extended capabilities

The first agreement signed by Canada, West Germany and France involves the pre-production of the booster-launched *CL-289* surveillance drone.

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