

water resource management, and natural heritage preservation.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGIES (ICST)

ICST will benefit from an increase in INRIA's budget (110 jobs created, 30% budget increase) and from the funds allocated to Réseaux de Recherche et d'Innovation Technologique (RRIT) [technology research and innovation networks] (RNRT, RNTL, RIAM) and to the Fonds National pour la Science (FNS) [national science fund] incentives.

MICRO AND NANOTECHNOLOGIES

The advent of the Centre for Innovation in Micro and Nanotechnology [MINATEC] in Grenoble, created by the CEA [Atomic Energy Commission] and regional and national interests, combines basic research, technological research, academic training in the field of *micro and nanotechnologies*. It also strives to build close business relationships with multinational corporations due to their internationally renowned expertise. MINATEC is also one of the French technology research and innovation networks of industrial and academic partners.

STRATEGIC S&T PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITIES WITH FRANCE, FOR INCREASED ENTRY INTO EUROPE

The establishment of *pre-competitive bilateral R&D partnerships* with France could facilitate Canadian participation in European research projects of the 6th European R&D Framework Program. This approach could prove to be a profitable investment for Canada, insofar as its aim is to generate results in the *medium term* through technology transfers and mutual business developments stemming from these research partnerships. Canada should have a sustained commitment to participating in European excellence networks/integrated projects in priority and strategic areas such as genomics, post-genomics, bio-informatics and micro and nanotechnologies, to mention just a few.

In line with the recent Forum sur la recherche franco-allemande [Franco-German research forum] (February 2002), *regular bilateral meetings between Canadian and French scientific experts* in a specific field would encourage bilateral Canada-France partnerships, thus facilitating access to European scientific excellence networks. These meetings would enhance understanding and potential alignment of national S&T strategies, as well as strengthening scientific co-operation in areas of common interest.

2. Snapshot of France S&T in 2002

- A) France R&D Budget for 2002**
- B) S&T Structure in France in 2002**
- C) S&T Organizations in France in 2002**

A) France R&D Budget for 2002

For the year 2002, projected government expenditures on R&D in France - the Budget civil de recherche et développement (BCRD) [budget for civilian (excluding defence) research and development] - amounts to €8,725M (CAN\$12,215M; €1= CAN\$1.40), an increase of 2.2% compared with the amount initially projected in 2001.

In net value, the BCRD has increased by nearly 10% since 1997, a threefold increase over the preceding five years. When adjusted for inflation, the French BCRD has, however, only increased by 0.6% since 1995 (compared with +3% for the EU, +4.1% in Japan, +5.5% in the