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SALE OF TELEPHONE SYSTEMS TO KENYA SUPPORTED BY EDC

International Trade Minister John C. Crosbie announced today that the Government of Canada, working through the Export Development Corporation (EDC) will lend up to \$23.5 million (U.S.) to the Kenya Posts and Telecommunications Corporation of Nairobi. The loan will support the sale of microwave telephone systems by SR Telecom Inc. (SRT) of St. Laurent, Quebec.

"The expertise developed by SRT in microwave telecommunications meets perfectly the needs of countries to link isolated parts of their territories," said Crosbie. "And if the exporter meets the client's needs, so does EDC, which can facilitate financing arrangement and therefore secure a transaction that will generate 810 person-years of employment in Canada."

The systems will provide modern rural telephone facilities in the Lake Naivasha, Masai Mara, Tsavo East and West regions of Kenya. Each system will be integrated into the national network of Kenya Posts and Telecommunications Corporation (KPTC), thereby providing the villages, clinics, farms, national parks and tourist facilities with the essential telecommunications services required in the further development of these vast rural areas.

SRT will supervise the installation of equipment by KPTC's staff and their training on the equipment supplied. SRT designs and manufactures microwave telecommunications systems for use with low-density population.

EDC is Canada's official export credit agency, responsible for providing export credit insurance, loans, guarantees, and other financial services to promote Canadian export trade. EDC reports to Parliament through the Minister for International Trade.