

The Department of External Affairs announces today that an exchange of diplomatic notes took place today between Canada and the U.S.A. confirming the agreement between the National Research Council of Canada and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for participation by the National Research Council in the development of the Advanced Space Transportation System.

Under this agreement, the NRCC, through contractual arrangements with Canadian industry, will design, develop and construct the first flight unit of the Space Shuttle Remote Manipulator System (SRMS). The SRMS is a fifty-foot arm-like device attached to the cargo bay of the Orbiter spacecraft, the orbiting element of the Space Shuttle. The SRMS will be used to move scientific satellites and other space vehicles from the cargo bay and place them in orbit. It will also be used to retrieve recoverable payloads for return to earth.

SPAR Aerospace Products Limited is the prime contractor for the SRMS and with RCA Limited, CAE Electronics Limited and Dilworth, Secord, Meagher and Associates Limited, its principal subcontractors, has been working on the preliminary design since November 1975. SPAR and the subcontractors are also designing and building a simulation facility to simulate on earth the conditions under which the SRMS will be required to operate in space.