

TECHNOLOGICAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR CANADIANS

Key opportunities in areas such as ocean industries, environmental technology, agriculture, pulp and paper, furniture, clothing, electronics and aerospace.

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2.1.2 Boston (New England)

The area has a population of about 9,600,000 people or four % of the U.S. population. Because of a tradition of high technology development (i.e. Route 128) and world class universities (eg. MIT, Harvard), New England spends about 2.5-3% of its GDP on R&D.

Two way trade between Canada and New England reached \$11 billion in 1988. Our major imports were computers, semi-conductors, and telecommunications equipment although we did export \$630 million in advanced technology products.

TECHNOLOGY TRENDS AND STRENGTHS

The December 1989 meeting of the New England Governor's Conference focused on the importance of biotechnology to the economic future of the region. Estimates are that by the year 2000, the value of the biotech industry in New England will be over US\$ 100 B. Economists forecast the creation of 100,000 biotech jobs in the region during this decade. New England is one of the world's top centers for biotech and biomedical research. There is a great opportunity for technology transfer, joint R&D, and joint ventures between Canadian and New England companies.

Computer software has become a growth industry in the region. There are over 1,500 software companies in Massachusetts alone with industry leaders such as Lotus, Index Technology, and Bitstream. The US headquarters of Cognos is located just outside of Boston. The industry employs about 300,000 people. Many small and medium sized companies have expressed an interest in joint projects with Canadian companies.