

3.2. Pre-competitive ITRD

In applied R&D, an early phase critical to success yet amenable to cooperation is the pre-competitive stage in which scientists exchange ideas approaches and experiences. This is a transitional stage where the nature of technological problems inhibiting the development of specific applications are investigated, technological solution approaches evaluated and trade-offs explored. Here, new products are formulated and business relationships forged. Here, international cooperation in advanced research can be significant.

3.3. ITRD Survey Topics

A set of ITRD topics and subtopics was established after consultation through seminars and questionnaires with a representative cross-section of the Canadian IT industry in early 1987. Exhibit 1 presents the topic list used originally in the Canadian survey. (These topics are also used in the ITRD database.)

Exhibit 2 presents the revised topic list used for the detailed discussions held with European and Japanese companies. This was derived from the results obtained by the Canadian survey. Appendix 1 indicates the relationship between the two sets of topics.