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External Affairs and  
International Trade Canada

## Venezuela Conference Could See Canadians Strike Gold

Canadian companies are being strongly encouraged by Canadian commercial officers at the Canadian Embassy in Caracas to "look closely" at Venezuela's booming gold mining market with its "great potential and opportunities."

One of the best ways to take that look is to participate in or attend the **Gold Mining Seminar** being held June 25, 1992 in Puerto Ordaz, an industrial city located in Guayana, the Venezuelan mining region.

The event is organized by the Canadian Embassy in Caracas in collaboration with the Guayana Development Corporation and the Venezuelan Gold Association.

Embassy officials say gold production in Venezuela has soared at least tenfold in the last few years, making the country the tenth largest western gold producer with one of the highest growth rates in South America.

"The actual production, however, bears no relation to its world class potential," officials add, noting that latest evaluations indicate that, in a six-year period, Venezuela could develop its capacity to produce "at low break even levels" about 3 million ounces per year (93 tonnes per year) of gold.

With gold being the primary target for development, the government has realized the need for foreign capital, initiative, equipment and technology to increase gold production from the present level of 15 metric tonnes per year to 45 metric tonnes per year by the year 2000.

The **Gold Mining Seminar**, with participation by some 120

*Continued on page 2 · Gold*

## Technology Partnership Plan Vehicle for Canadian Firms

Canadian high technology companies have an opportunity - until June 1, 1992 - to partner with prime contractors who bid on large systems contracts in the U.S. private sector and in the U.S. government.

Under the **Technology Partnership Program**, launched at the Canadian Embassy in Washington, major prime contractors are looking for Canadian partners in a wide range of operating environments (on mainframes, micros and networks).

Interested companies will take part in introductory training sessions - planned for late June in selected cities - on working with systems integrators.

The following technology areas are of particular interest: OCR and image products; multimedia and authoring software; CASE tools; 4GL tools and application

development services; system design, development and integration; acquisition and program management support; and inter-networking LAN and WAN.

Included as well are: artificial intelligence and expert systems; computer-based training and simulation; voice processing; multi-vendor e-mail; X.400 and X.500 products; satellite earth station components; satellite telemetry, tracking and command base hardware and software; data security productions and encryption algorithms; and telecommunications hardware and software.

Companies offering these technologies and wanting to explore the possibility of partnership with U.S. prime contractors

*Continued on page 2 · Plan*

## Preferential Tariff Granted

Canada has granted the General Preferential Tariff (GPT) to Ukraine, the Republics of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Armenia and the Russian Federation.

The GPT is a system of tariff preferences accorded to goods that originate in developing countries and most countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

The rates of duty on products eligible under the GPT are generally two thirds (or less) of the most-favoured-nation rates. The GPT applies to manufactured and semi-manufactured goods, but excludes most textiles, apparel, footwear and some steel

products.

The announcement was made by Secretary of State for External Affairs Barbara McDougall and Minister of State for Finance John McDermid.

### INSIDE

Opportunities in Spain and around the world	3-4
EDC Lines of Credit	5-8
France to Mexico Fairs	9-10
Japan Trade Calendar	11
Agenda	12

Canada