Foreword

Project Overview

This project seeks to identify opportunities for international cooperation in pre-competitive R&D in Information Technology (ITRD) and help Canadian industry initiate and develop such cooperation. It includes:

1) the collection of information on current R&D activities in Canada, Japan and Western Europe;

2) the identification of potential partners in specific priority areas identified as promising for cooperation in ITRD by Canadian industry;

3) the determination of initial contacts and proposed follow-up activities between interested Canadian, Japanese and Western European companies.

The project is an initiative of the Department of Communications in support of the Technology Inflow Program (TIP) of External Affairs. It seeks to enhance Canadian research capabilities in mutually beneficial collaborative R&D activities in Information Technology (IT). R&D activities, considered most amenable to cooperative efforts would be those focussing on specific problem areas the resolution of which would enable application and commercialization of benefits to all the participants. Such R&D is generally of a longer term nature, in effect, the early stages of investigation, development and trial of highly promising areas that will lead to profitable market applications. This early stage of R&D may be thought of as being precompetitive and an excellent one in which to begin building strong professional and personal working relationships.

The Report

This report presents the results of a survey of the research and development interests of Canadian companies active in the information technology field. This was the first of three industry appraisals carried out to identify opportunities for cooperative R&D ventures in Japan and Western Europe where surveys were also conducted. These efforts represent the first steps in the process of establishing specific cooperative R&D projects with Canadian, Japanese or Western European partners.