

BACKGROUND ...

CURRENT SITUATION ...

Demand for Consulting Engineers and Other Services

The range of services offered by engineering consultants include :

- Civil/structural
- Mechanical/electrical
- Environmental/industrial
- Others

Most firms (approximately 100) provide civil/structural and mechanical/electrical consulting services. Despite the fact that construction is beginning to pick up, the market for civil/structural services is already well-developed in terms of infrastructure requirements. Furthermore, this sector is dominated by local contractors. Potential entry areas for foreign companies are in specialized services such as buildings with special intelligence and other high-technology services not available in the local market.

In the case of environmental engineering, however, there are few local consultants. As more industries establish operations in Singapore, given the country's limited geographic size, demand for consultants in this area will increase. In particular, there will be a growing demand for consultants in the area of recycling (e.g. disposal of solid waste, pollution control, waste water treatment, etc.)

Consultants in the area of risk management, transportation/packaging of hazardous material will also be demanded. The need for more equipment for environmental monitoring (eg : blue gas analyzers) will grow along with demand for environmental protection studies.

Other areas of growth will include consultants in the recreation and tourism sector as the government continues to develop Singapore into a tourism center. Consultancy required in the recreation sector will, however, demand conceptualized models (eg : West Edmonton Mall, Canada) rather than actual construction.