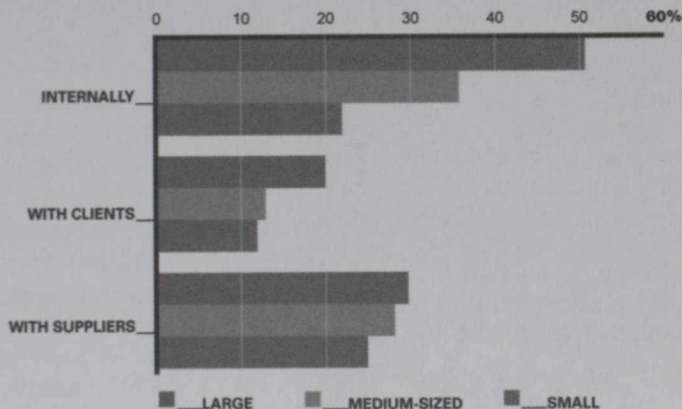


Figure 5: Integration of electronic logistics systems

INTEGRATION OF ELECTRONIC LOGISTICS SYSTEMS
 PERCENTAGE OF COMPANIES USING INTEGRATED SYSTEMS



Source: Industry Canada (2010a)

These results indicate that for all of the statements in Table 3 (except for the choice of suppliers on the Internet), deployment is based on the size of the respondents, with the large companies systematically adopting practices and technologies in greater numbers than the small and medium-sized companies. Care should be taken in interpreting these results today, since the survey is several years old and the portrait is bound to have changed, even simply on the basis of new perspectives or technologies such as RFID.

Canadian companies would be well-advised to make a greater effort to adopt and integrate electronic management software. By doing so, they could catch up with their American counterparts, enjoy substantial savings in terms of logistics costs and improve the quality of client services to give them an advantage over their competitors. In fact, adopting supply chain management best practices is not just a matter of saving money, but also—and most importantly—it is a way to obtain a lasting competitive edge.