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Canada's computing industry continues to grow, 1

Anti-terrorist reward offered, 2

Disarmament — Canada contributes to United Nations campaign, 3

Foundation furthers Canada-Asia relations, 3

New defence chief named, 3

Businessmen enter Hall of Fame, 4

Canada pledges to double aid to the Caribbean, 4

Oil rig disaster simulated, 5

Ontario firm flying high with scaffolding, 6

Stamp marks communications year, 6

Canadian studies office marks first year of service, 6

News of the arts — music, ballet, films, awards, 7

News briefs, 8

Canada's computing industry continues to grow

The Canadian computer industry is a burgeoning sector of the Canadian economy that is moving towards becoming a major force on the world scene — both as user and supplier.

The products and services of the industry are affecting many other sectors of the economy as Canada enters the throes of a global information "explosion" associated with the rapid expansion in the use of computers. Technological advances promise to open up new business and consumer markets and the evolution of the market can be expected to continue at a rapid pace.

Canada's data processing industry has experienced a phenomenal growth. In 1982, Canadian computer industry revenues were approximately \$4.5-billion retail for computers and office machines, growing at a rate of about 20 per cent a year. In addition there was in excess of \$1.2-billion revenue from computer services.

Several hundred companies are directly engaged in generating computer equip-

ment sales. These companies supply a variety of products encompassing microcomputers, large mainframes, peripherals and operating software. The fastest growing segment of this sector involves the production and sale of microcomputers and related peripherals and software.

In the services subsector, the industry provides a wide range of systems design services, data processing by service bureaus, on-line data bases, consulting and custom software. Unlike the equipment industry, the Canadian service sector is dominated by Canadian-owned companies. The statistics for computer services are impressive. There are more than 1 400 companies directly engaged in services employing in excess of 20 000 people. At least 90 per cent of the companies are Canadian-owned and it is estimated that Canadians produce 82 per cent of the total service industry revenues. An average growth rate exceeding 20 per cent has been realized in recent years and shows no sign of abatement.

The Canadian market for computing



A version of the AES C20 made up of four work-stations connected to a central unit containing a microprocessor. Each of the four units can type up to 540 words a minute making the total output of the system 8 000 words a minute.



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