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MINISTER FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE TO HELP BRING
FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY INTO CANADA

The Minister for International Trade, The Honourable James Kelleher, announced today that the federal government will use its Embassies and Consulates to help Canadian firms acquire foreign technologies, which can be used to create jobs in Canada and to improve their competitiveness in the international marketplace. "The flow of foreign technology into Canada, its speedy adoption, adaptation and enhancement and diffusion throughout the country are crucial for Canadian economic growth", the Minister said.

This is in line with the accord reached at the First Ministers' Conference in Regina last February that expansion and upgrading of Canada's mix of exportable products by the encouragement of technology acquisition would form an important component of a national Export Strategy. Not only is the production of high technology important, but as Minister Kelleher stated, "even more important is how we use technology - to produce attractive goods and services at the price and quality levels demanded by the marketplace."

Canadian firms will be able to make use of the services of six Technology Development Officers, locally engaged experts soon to be hired in London, Stockholm, Bonn, Tokyo, Boston and Atlanta, who will search for technology in response to specific requests sent to them by Canadian companies and organizations.

In addition to these new Technology Development Officers, Science and Technology Counsellors, Trade Commissioners and Commercial Officers in a number of posts abroad are able to provide to Canadian companies a wide range of services spanning the innovation/marketing cycle.