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## Office of the future to increase efficiency and simplify jobs

Office workers today constitute 50 to 55 per cent of the Canadian labour force and this figure is expected to grow considerably in the near future. This coupled with the dramatic advances in electronics and computer technologies is leading to a change towards a more efficient electronics-based office — the "office of the future".

To take full advantage of this electronic evolution, the federal Departments of Communications and Industry, Trade and Commerce/Regional Economic Expansion, have allocated \$12 million in the 1982-1985 fiscal period to support field testing within the public service of Canadian "office of the future" technology.

The money will be spent to help Canadian companies develop the industrial capacity to supply the growing national and international markets for integrated electronic office products and services.

### Field trials

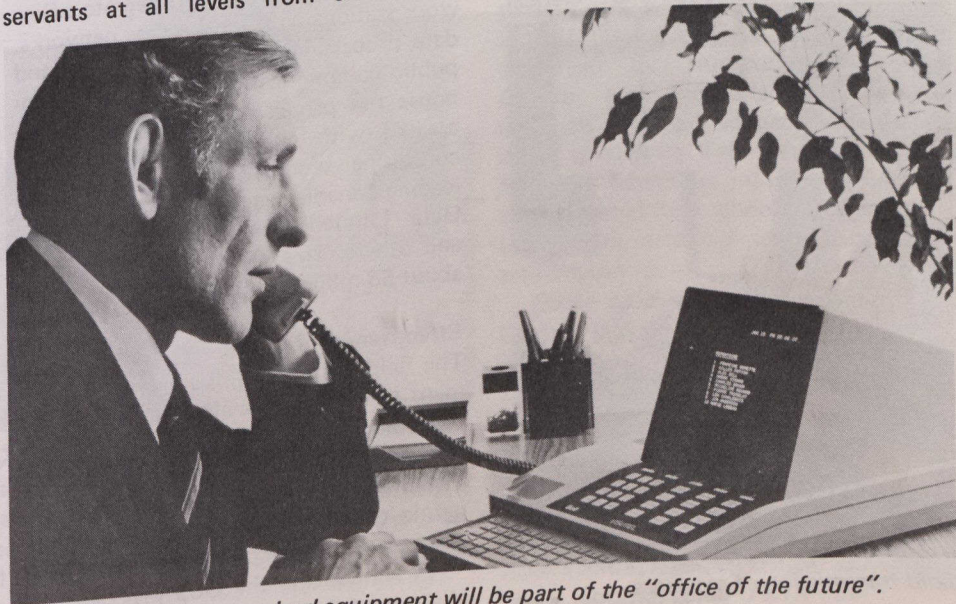
Under the federal office communications (OCS) program a series of large field trials will be conducted within federal departments involving hundreds of public servants at all levels from clerks and

secretaries to senior executives and members of Cabinet.

The trials will allow Canadian companies to perfect new equipment and services in a working environment and demonstrate proven products to buyers. If successful, the trial systems could evolve into full-scale operating systems with more than 2 000 terminals in each participating department.

Jointly administered by the two departments, the program is in response to the growing trade deficit in the Canadian office equipment and service sector. In 1980 when the program was created, imports of office equipment were increasing at 43 per cent a year and constituted 96 per cent of all Canadian purchases in 1979-80.

It is estimated that by 1990, the Canadian market for integrated office automation systems (including electronic voice and data switching equipment, multi-functional work stations; word, data, voice and graphics-processing equipment; communications and copier equipment) will reach between \$15 and \$20 billion. The international market will be 20 to 25 times this size. If Canadian industry



*Electronic and computerized equipment will be part of the "office of the future".*



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