

publicly advertised in newspapers and various government and private publications that list available government contracts (**Appendix 1** provides the address of public and private agencies that provide a list of the most recent government contracts that are available).

F) Environment

Creation of a new Ministry of Environment in 1994 has brought increased attention to environmental practices and many industrial organizations are acting to change the way in which they do business.

The Ministry of the Environment has received a great deal of assistance from various international technical assistance agencies, including the Canadian International Development Agency in getting organized and operating. In addition to structural / organizational issues, the Ministry is developing the regulatory standards for environment. It will shortly introduce its regulatory framework, which will be in conformity with established international standards.

As soon as the environmental standards and regulations are passed, there will be pressure on municipalities and industry to meet these standards. This will require significant investments in new technologies and processes. The market is currently very much dependent on international sources of technology and expertise. Resources are being dedicated and plans made in river/water treatment, waste management and emission reduction. There will be significant opportunities for Canadian companies that can provide technology and products to address these areas.

The environmental industry is very decentralized. Each departamento (or state) has its own Regional Autonomous Corporation (CAR), responsible for the implementation of policies set out by the national government. The CARs also contract out for services provided by private sector geomatics companies.

The recent government emphasis on protecting the environment has created a lot of opportunities for geomatics companies with special environmental related expertise. Before construction can occur on all capital projects, an environmental impact study must now be completed. The corporation or public entity that is completing the project must contract out the environmental impact study to an independent environmental firm capable of completing the study and providing an impartial decision. These studies usually require a mapping and cadastral component.

G) Agriculture

The agricultural sector represents close to 19% of Colombia's GDP and close to 35% of the country's exports. In interviews with various Colombian geomatics companies the agriculture industry always came up as one of the lower growth industries for geomatics opportunities. (**Annex 2** under Agriculture provides some contacts for those companies wishing to compete in this industry).

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