

j) Technology Inflow Program

The Technology Inflow Program (TIP) is aimed at improving Canadian industry's productivity and competitiveness. It does this by facilitating the identification and absorption of foreign technologies by Canadian firms. Since Canada produces only two percent of the world's technology, the rate at which it adopts new or improved product or process technology from non-Canadian sources will determine its position in many international markets. The TIP also encourages Canadian companies to become more competitive domestically, at a time when imports are attractive from design and price viewpoints.

The program assists this technology acquisition in two ways. First, it makes use of Canadian government offices abroad to provide information and assistance in transferring technology into Canada. Second, it provides financial assistance to industry to help defray some of the special costs involved in technology transfers from abroad.

TIP Post Services

Some 32 specially qualified TIP officers in 24 of our diplomatic and trade posts in the U.S.A. and abroad will respond to specific requests to identify technology sources, investigate opportunities for collaboration, and arrange for the prospective partners to be brought together. These services are not meant to supplant private sector initiatives, but to provide assistance based on an intimate knowledge of the region or country involved. While the service is available to all organizations, those small and medium-sized businesses whose resources and international contacts are limited are the main recipients of the services.

TIP Funding

TIP may provide funding assistance for both short or longer term projects, which may involve acquiring skills and knowledge, obtaining product or process licences, technology collaborations, or foreign input to research and development. The most common activities are exploratory visits abroad to identify or negotiate for foreign technologies. Often these can be approved at the local level. Longer term or more complex projects require review by the TIP Project Evaluation Committee in Ottawa, which meets at least monthly.

For further information:

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