

*Industry, Science and Technology**[Translation]*

A list of activities has been drawn up to link pure science and commercial success. The Government has recognized that we absolutely must invest in Canada's scientific and technological base to ensure our economic future.

Various initiatives show this: the creation of the National Advisory Board on Science and Technology chaired by the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) and the allocation of \$1.3 billion announced by the Prime Minister in January 1988 at the National Conference on Technology and Innovation.

[English]

There is no aspect of economic development today that does not depend on science and technology. Awareness of the vital role of science and science skills is a prerequisite to increasing our capacity to exploit technology. Success in this endeavour will require a concerted effort with the business and science communities.

One of ISTC's principal concerns is to mobilize this effort. A departmental priority is to bend its efforts toward promotion of a more science-oriented culture in Canada, to ensure an adequate supply of highly-qualified personnel in order to exploit the potential industrial benefits of technology, and to develop industrial opportunities directly from scientific endeavours.

ISTC has responsibility for national leadership under the national science and technology policy, and implementation of Innovaction, Canadian Strategy for Science and Technology. Innovaction initiatives include the federal microelectronics strategy, the Canadian manufacturing and advanced technology exchange, the national network of centres of excellence, the Canada scholarships program, funding the University Research Granting Councils and a public awareness program for science and technology.

Under Innovaction \$240 million has been devoted to the national network of centres for excellence program. Two-hundred million dollars has been added to the base budgets of the University Research Granting Council. The \$80 million Canadian scholarship program is now beginning its second successful year of encouraging young people, particularly women, who are under represented in these fields, to take up careers in science and engineering.

Following naturally upon our efforts in the science field, the Department has launched a major effort to promote the development and application of strategic technologies. Strategic technologies are those like biotechnology, advanced industrial materials, information technology that will impact, not only on one sector or enterprise, but also on a broad range of industry and business in one way or another. In order to ensure that Canadian firms benefit from all that these technologies have to offer, we have, in consultation with business, developed government-wide strategies in these fields. A cornerstone of these strategies is the concept of strategic technology alliances.

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The Department is moving to support alliances among companies, among groups of companies and research institutions and between groups of Canadian companies and foreign partners. These alliances may be established to plan and to perform precompetitive research and development or to develop leading edge technology applications.

Another key thrust of ISTC will be a series of industry sector competitiveness initiatives. ISTC is joining in partnership with selected industry sectors to carry out new initiatives to improve competitiveness.

[Translation]

In the past, the Government relied a great deal on general funding programs in its efforts to help industry adjust to change. Our new approach is to use more effective instruments designed in cooperation with industry and based on a more balanced set of policies, services and financial assistance programs that are more oriented to the needs and possibilities of a particular sector.

[English]

Pursuing the logic of our widened purview of the whole continuum of business activity, we have redesigned and rebuilt our services to business in all parts of Canada. A major activity of ISTC is business development and information services. We recently announced the establishment of international trade centres in our provincial offices. These centres will assist Canadian businesses wishing to penetrate export markets and provide a one-stop shopping service that our exporters have long been seeking.