

7. Ocean production enhancement network

C. PRINCIPAL R & D INSTITUTIONS

The Government of Canada provides tax credits to companies involved in R & D in Canada. The amount of the credit varies, depending on the size of the company, from 20 to 35%. Canada has also perhaps the most competitive corporate tax treatment for R & D out of the ten most industrialized countries.

The Ministry of Industry, Science, and Technology provides financial assistance for the development of biotechnology through the Strategic Technologies Program. The budget for biotechnology is \$40 million, and the type of projects includes feasibility studies, R & D alliances and technology application alliances. Projects accepted can qualify up to 50 % of the eligible costs. There is no maximum per project.

In addition to the technical and financial agencies of the federal government the provincial governments have independent programs to promote R & D and innovation in industry.

1. THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL (NRC)

NRC is Canada's largest research granting agency, channelling over \$480 million annually into university research and the training of new scientists and engineers. This figure constitutes 8% of the federal government funds for scientific activities (\$5.6 billion in 1990-1991). It includes other agencies like the National Science and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), the Medical Research Council (MRC).

NSERC focuses on the funding of university-based research and offers a wide range of programs including the following: university-industry collaborative: Industrial research fellowships, research personnel exchanges, university-industry affiliations, co-operative R & D activities, etc. The budget for the period 1989-1990 was \$20 million. Spanish firms could participate with Canadian partners.

The Industrial Research Assistance Program (IRAP) is the best Canadian program for financial and technical assistance to medium and small firms. It is especially designed for companies interested in R & D activity and innovation. Some 5,000 firms were helped in 1990 through IRAP. This program offers technical and financial support (up to 50 % to a maximum of \$500,000) for promising research projects where the substantial risk to the