Canadian computer companies at CeBIT 85

Nineteen Canadian firms that offer some of the world's finest integrated electronic office system products will be exhibiting at CeBIT 85 in Hanover, Federal Republic of Germany, April 17-24.

Canada's very large and expanding computer industry is an important part of the country's economy and enjoys substantial markets within the country and internationally. Growing at an estimated rate of about 15-20 per cent per year, revenues in the industry for 1983 were approximately $5.5 billion retail for computers and office machines. Computer services accounted for an additional total of approximately $1.4 billion revenue.

Canada's largest manufacturer of noise reduction covers, Trigild Limited, makes more than 120 models.

Canada is the world's eighth largest exporter of computing equipment with more than 125 companies marketing their products. In 1983, 90 per cent of domestic computer production, worth more than $1 billion, was exported.

In the Canadian hardware sector, a growing number of Canadian-owned firms are successfully establishing themselves in the marketplace. They have developed capabilities in software, data communications, videotex, and specialized hardware products, especially in the areas of terminal equipment and small business systems.

In the services sub-sector, the industry provides a diverse range of systems design services, data processing by service bureaus, on-line data bases, consulting and custom software. Some 90 per cent of these companies are Canadian-owned.

Innovation: a specialty

Some Canadian-owned computer firms have concentrated on the design and manufacture of innovative products for which the need has not been met elsewhere. In general, these products cover a wide range of applications, and most incorporate the latest advances in microprocessors. Many of them have been very successful in the international marketplace.

In the design and manufacture of word processing systems Canada has received a great deal of international recognition with products sold in more than 80 countries. Suppliers are now moving into integrated electronic office systems.

A number of Canadian manufacturers of intelligent computer terminals export their products for a variety of needs. Some terminals are particularly suited to graphics, while others are geared toward computer-aided learning and industrial data collection.

Canadian suppliers are also very active in the field of CAD/CAM (computer-aided design/computer-aided manufacturing) graphics with specialized terminals and software languages.

Additional systems and services

Some other recognized Canadian developments are: data communications products to link computers to different data networks, including packet switching; custom-designed on-line computer systems for banks, fleet management, hospitals, stockbrokers, mapmaking and retailing applications; software packages in data management, file retrieval, and "user-friendly" software productivity tools; desktop microprocessors for financial management applications in small businesses; and specialized data bases for quick reference to financial, legal and literary areas, economics, current events and other subjects.

Canadian-designed microcomputers are capable of receiving a wide variety of software services through cable television networks. With this technology, it is possible to create a communications network that provides home computer users access to large computer data bases at a small cost relative to existing distribution methods.

Canadian companies offer a diversified range of capabilities covering all aspects of business, industry and government.

The versatile KD500G Terminal by Keynote Computer Products is described as basically four terminals in one.

Mobile Data International is the world's leading supplier of mobile data sub-systems that allow radio communication of digital information.