

demonstrate the FLI prototype in the FRG in light of the province's interests in monitoring environmental effects of acid rain, and in assisting development of new technologies.

Governments encourage closer relations between Canadian companies and their German and other European counterparts. Two private companies, Moniteq Ltd. of Concord, Ontario, and the Space Instrumentation Department of Messerschmitt-Boelkow-Blohm GmbH (MBB) of Munich, are participating in research on the FLI. The companies signed an agreement in 1987 to cooperate in commercial development of this technology and to design a space-deployed imaging spectrometer sensor for the European Space Agency (ESA). This research venture combines the companies' individual strengths in airborne and spaceborne remote sensing.

As a result of experience gained on the test flights in the FRG, Moniteq is now flying the imager on commercial contracts for government agencies and mineral exploration firms in several European countries. Moniteq is working on the next generation of the FLI under contract for an Australian resource exploration company.

MBB also cooperates with another Canadian company in space research for the European Space Agency. Canadian Astronautics Ltd. (CAL) of Ottawa has joined a team of European companies, including MBB, to perform a study on advanced synthetic aperture radar (ASAR) for ESA. Canada is a cooperating state in ESA, and participates in selected programs in earth observation, including those in preparation for the new generation of polar-orbiting satellite platforms planned for launch in the late 1990s. This preliminary study may lead to further cooperation between CAL and MBB in development of ASAR technology.

The FLI is just one of about 130 formal projects of S&T cooperation between the Federal Republic of Germany and Canada. The priorities of this cooperation are established each two years at Bilateral Consultations held alternately in Canada and the Federal Republic of Germany. The last round was held at Meech Lake, Quebec, near Ottawa, in June 1987.

The participants in last year's Ninth Consultations were Canadian and German officials from a number of federal and provincial government departments responsible for research and technology development. Consultations are conducted in a friendly and cooperative atmosphere since the Federal Republic of Germany and Canada have complementary needs and interests in the search for new technologies. Officials develop a framework for the cooperative research which takes place in laboratories and research centres in both countries.