

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

communiqué

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CANADIAN COMMERCIAL CORPORATION AWARDS \$82 MILLION ORDER TO DAF INDAL LTD.

The Honourable Edward Lumley, Minister for International Trade, announced today at a contract signing ceremony the award of an \$82 million order by Canadian Commercial Corporation (CCC) to DAF Indal Ltd. of Mississauga, Ontario. The order consists of a \$52 million contract for 18 helicopter recovery, assist, secure and traverse (RAST) systems for the U.S. Navy and a letter of intent for an additional 13 systems valued in excess of \$30 million. It is anticipated that further U.S. Navy procurement will generate orders for up to 116 systems valued at approximately \$400 million over the next eight or nine years.

Mr. Lumley stated that the RAST contract, if all 116 ship sets are procured, is expected to provide some 4000 person years of employment broadly dispersed between DAF Indal Ltd., its major subcontractors in Canada, and over 100 Canadian suppliers in the small business category.

The RAST system, which assists helicopters to land on ships, evolved from the Canadian Navy's BEARTRAP system. It was first sold to the U.S. Navy in 1977. With experience gained from BEARTRAP, DAF Indal developed three new prototypes, which underwent extensive testing and sea trials and earned full technical qualification and acceptance by the U.S. Navy. The systems will be procured by CCC and sold to the U.S. Navy under the U.S./Canada Defense Production Sharing Arrangement (DPSA). This sale will considerably enhance prospects for further commercial and military export sales.