

- *Large Scale Projects*
These AIST-funded and NEDO-managed projects are strategic technology development initiatives. Corporations, government labs and, to some extent, universities work together towards a national objective. Current projects of interest include:
 - Advanced robotics (FY 89 budget of \$20 million)
 - Water treatment (FY 89 budget of \$20 million)
 - Interoperable Databases (FY 89 budget of \$11 million)
 - Advanced material processing/machining (FY budget \$19 million)

Effective this year, foreign enterprises are eligible to participate in all "Large-Scale" projects.

- *Sunshine and Moonlight Projects*
These NEDO projects are targeted at developing alternative energy sources (solar, geothermal, coal, wind, hydrogen, etc.) and energy-conserving technologies (superheat pumps, fuel cells, etc.)
- *Fifth Generation Computing*
This is a national project which commenced in 1982. Managed by the Institute for New Generation Computer Technology (ICOT), a combination of government and private sector human and financial resources, its target is literally the "fifth generation" computer using AI and parallel processing.

CONDITIONS OF ACCESS

Government programs, which have often excluded foreign participants in the past, are slowly opening to international participation. In the past two years alone, at least four major initiatives of Japan totalling over \$100 million have not only been opened to foreign organizations, but created with their participation in mind.

Intellectual property in Japan is controlled by the Japanese Patent Agency. While the patent process is similar to that of both Canada and the European Community nations, the Japanese system is "first to file". Patent applications in Japan sometimes take an inordinate amount of time to fruition (up to three years), and a good patent attorney is a necessity.

Both the government and private sector are willing licensors. Individual agreements can be tailored to the tastes of the parties involved. Government licenses are often extremely cheap.

The biggest barrier to access is not technical, but cultural. The use of Japanese professionals for cultural and language interpretation is a *must*.

TECHNOLOGICAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR CANADIANS

These abound in virtually every sector of the Japanese economy. Successes include everything from scallop aquaculture to advanced debit card technologies. In the strategic sectors there are abundant opportunities in advanced materials, automotive industries, advanced manufacturing and chemical/plastic products. Environmental, food, and resource technologies also hold promise.

Canada has a bilateral science and technology agreement with Japan which was signed in 1986. More recently, the federal government has approved a Japan Science and Technology Fund which will enhance science and technological collaboration with that country.

The Japanese also remain one of the world's most prolific *licensees* of foreign technologies. Opportunities are also numerous here.

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