

Aircraft landing system bound for world markets

Less than three months after signing a multi-million dollar contract to provide experimental scientific equipment for the United States' space shuttle, Ottawa's Canadian Astronautics Ltd. has landed another major deal.



The Citizen

Bob Ashton examines MLS unit.

The high technology systems company has just signed a contract with Micronav Ltd. of Sydney, Nova Scotia, for the development of equipment for a new all-weather aircraft approach and landing system called a microwave landing system (MLS). International aviation authorities have ruled that the use of the MLS will be mandatory at all major world airports by 1990.

The contract is expected to bring an estimated \$1.5 million in additional revenue to ten-year-old Canadian Astronautics, which employs 125 people and had sales of about \$10 million in 1982.

Bob Ashton, director of radar and communications for Canadian Astronautics, said the contract will create only three or four new jobs to start, but up to 50 jobs across the country if the prototype system is successful.

"World-wide competition to sell the new system is fierce, and the work we're doing will help advance our competitive edge," he said.

"The bubble is just about to burst, and there are probably about half a dozen

countries in the world about to start producing the MLS, so we've got to be pretty quick off the mark."

Micronav has been allocated a total of \$3 million in federal government funding to design and manufacture MLS equipment. Canadian Astronautics is developing a special antenna for the system, which will be used along with computer control and monitoring equipment.

The MLS system provides a signal that sweeps back and forth across a runway. The time interval between signals allows a pilot to precisely determine his direction and angle of descent. It will replace the conventional instrument landing system, in service since the Second World War, which uses a static signal and is much less accurate.

"With a microwave landing system, you can have a complete blackout and still land," said Bob Ashton. "The passengers on the plane may feel a few bumps, but they'd never know they had landed by complete remote control."

Mr. Ashton said the system will also be useful for landing helicopters on oil rigs, and the same technology can be applied to civil and military radar systems.

Last June, Canadian Astronautics signed a four-year, \$12.8-million contract for the US space shuttle program as the prime Canadian contractor on a project to investigate the effect of the ionosphere on the earth's climate.

Canadian trade policy announced

Minister of State (International Trade) Gerald Regan announced August 31 the results of the federal government's review of Canadian trade policy intended to define the nature, objectives and priorities of Canadian trade policy for the 1980s.

Emphasizing that the competitiveness of Canadian industry is the fundamental key to a strong trade performance, the minister stated: "It is essential that our costs not increase more rapidly than those of our competitors. We have not done well in the improvement of productivity in recent years. Improvement of performance in this regard is the key to maintaining a competitive position in world markets."

The minister stressed the vital importance to Canada of an effective multilateral trade and payments system: a strengthened multilateral system for trade is essential to Canada's future well-being. "We will therefore be giving this objective

top priority in the GATT meetings and in working with our principal trading partners. In this regard, I am pleased to announce that the next quadrilateral meeting of Trade Ministers (Canada, USA, Japan, EEC) will be held in Canada on September 26 and 27."

On the management of Canadian trade and economic relations with the US, this country's major trading partner, Mr. Regan stated: "We are proceeding to examine the pros and cons of limited free trade arrangements in specific sectors such as urban mass transit, clothing and textiles."

Finally, Mr. Regan emphasized his determination to work hand in hand with Canadian producers and the provinces, to search out and develop new export markets and to expand existing markets. In this regard, he added, "October has been designated as export trade month, an initiative that was developed jointly with provincial trade ministers earlier this year. I look forward to meeting my provincial counterparts in the near future to strengthen our consensus on trade policy and to confirm specific initiatives for export trade month."

Brian Mulroney, newly-elected MP, confirmed Opposition leader



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Having won his seat in the Nova Scotia riding of Central Nova, Brian Mulroney is sworn in as the new Member of Parliament, automatically confirming his position as official leader of the Opposition. Mr. Mulroney was elected leader of the Progressive Conservative party in June, succeeding Joe Clark.