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COSICS

# COSICS

Canadian On-Line Secure Information and Communication System

Dept. of External Affairs  
Ministère des Affaires extérieures  
OTTAWA

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## COSICS Countdown

A long time has passed since the first issue of the COSICS newsletter appeared. For those who wondered: the project was delayed because of the time necessary for the contracting process. Great care was taken to select the prime contractor for the equipment, software, training and support that best suit our requirements.

In August 1988, Fenco Engineers Inc. of Toronto and Ottawa won over two other bidders. As systems integrator, Fenco is working with partner-suppliers in industry and with the COSICS project office to produce a state-of-the-art system tailored to the Department's unique needs.

### Management's Commitment

Last October, Michael Bell was appointed Assistant Deputy Minister, Special Projects, with specific responsibility for COSICS. In this capacity, he is a key member of the COSICS Operations Committee composed of ADMs and chaired by Raymond Chrétien, Associate Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs.

The high level of senior management's involvement in COSICS, Bell affirms, is evidence of their commitment to its successful implementation. However, COSICS' success also depends on the commitment of all those

involved — whether management, technicians or users.

Through the Fall and into early 1989, the project team, together with Fenco, took one final survey of the equipment market to ensure that COSICS takes advantage of the latest proven technology. The operating system is based on Digital Equipment Corporation's (DEC) equipment and software. However, it is being modified for our Department's security requirements. The customization of existing hardware and software will be phased through 1989.

### Initial installation in New York

Canada's Permanent Mission in New York, and the New York Consulate General will be the sites for COSICS' initial field installation. By the end of May, the Permanent Mission will be linked with selected units at Headquarters, and COSICS will undergo its first on-site test.

Soon after, COSICS will be officially launched at the Washington Embassy. By late summer 1989, the system will be set up and running in the other United States locations.

Europe is slated for the next phase of installation, and site preparation teams are already visiting missions there to develop detailed plans.

## Installation Schedule (as of February 1989)

- **April/May**  
Parts of Headquarters and New York
- **June/July**  
Washington and all remaining U.S. sites
- **September/October**  
Balance of Headquarters Phase 1

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