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TELECOMMUNICATIONS FIRMS AWARDED CONTRACTS IN CHINA WITH SUPPORT OF EDC LOANS

International Trade Minister John C. Crosbie announced today that the Government of Canada, working through the Export Development Corporation (EDC), will support sales of telecommunications equipment by Spar Aerospace Ltd. and the sale of radio system equipment by SR Telecom Inc. The transactions will be financed with loans to China of up to US\$31.7 million and US\$4.6 million, respectively.

Spar Aerospace Ltd. of Dorval, Quebec will supply 17 domestic satellite earth stations and a central maintenance/repair facility to the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications. Spar is one of Canada's leading advanced technology companies and a designer and manufacturer of a wide range of systems and products for the communications, aviation and space markets.

SR Telecom Inc. of St. Laurent, Quebec, a designer, manufacturer and marketer of microwave telecommunications systems, will supply subscriber radio system equipment, services, and technology transfer to the Tianjin Great Wall Electronic Corporation and Tianjin University Radio Factory.

Spar's transaction will generate 900 person years of employment in Canada and SR Telecom's project will generate 167 person years.