

A Russian-Canadian Partnership called SovCan Star

SovCan Star is a partnership of Canadian and Russian companies, joining together the best of western high-tech satellite telecom payloads, built by Canada's Spar Aerospace and COM DEV, with the best of bus and launch facilities provided by the Russian NPO PM and Khrunichev. SovCan Star will launch and operate a global telecommunications network consisting of five geostationary satellites capable of providing voice, data and video communications services. Each satellite will be equipped with 24 transponders of 54 MHz bandwidth in Ku band and with four steerable spotbeams. Their life span will exceed 10 years.

To appreciate the strength of SovCan Star, a brief profile of the major partners follows.

From Russia

- **NPO PM**, a state company, is the largest Russian manufacturer of satellites for telecommunications, TV-broadcasting, navigation and geodesy applications. NPO PM has over 30 years of design, experimentation, manufacturing and program management experience. It has been the prime contractor for more than 30 space programs including Molniya, Raduga, Gorizont, Ekran, Loutch and Radio communications satellites; Tsikada and Glonass navigation satellites; Geo-Ik and Etalon geodesic satellites; and high-altitude probe and ionospheric station research satellites. NPO PM is currently involved in the development of telecom and television satellite programs including Gals, Gelikon, Express and Arcos. The reliability and track record of NPO PM's launches are among the best in the industry.
- **Russian Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications (MPT)**, the governing body of all Russian telecommunications, is currently managing some 23 million telephone lines and is mandated to doubling the network by the year 2000. Its enormous need for long distance circuits is such that it has agreed to support SovCan Star in an unprecedented quid-pro-quo arrangement. Although not a SovCan Star shareholder (and cannot be by law), the MPT's in-kind support is an outstanding example of win-win reciprocity between Russian entities and western companies that will help service Russia's own domestic telecommunications requirements.
- **Russian Space Agency (RSA)**, the governing body of all Russian space activities, has agreed to be a major shareholder. It will fund all of the Russian contribution to SovCan Star and will guarantee its five launches. The RSA, along with the MPT, is a major partner whose role and interest in SovCan Star are not only a significant vote of confidence for the program but also a testimonial of the importance of SovCan Star to the telecom needs of the Russian Federation.
- **Other Russian shareholders** include Intersputnik (an international intergovernmental satellite carrier), Informcosmos (responsible for national satcom needs) and RSCC (the national satcom operator).

From Canada

- **COM DEV Ltd.** is a privately held company located in Cambridge, Ontario. COM DEV is the world's premier supplier of multiplexing, switching and on-board processing subsystems for communications satellites, supplying more than 65 percent of the western world's requirements. COM DEV has supplied equipment to 67 international space programs resulting in more than 150 satellites in orbit using COM DEV's switches and multiplexers.
- **Spar Aerospace Limited (Spar)**, a public Canadian company, has an international reputation for excellence in advanced space technology. Spar is a world leader in the design, development and manufacture of space robotics (e.g. Canadarm), satellite payloads for telecom (e.g. Anik series) and earth observation (e.g. Radarsat), and ground satcom networks for both public and private applications. Spar is the largest Canadian space technology corporation addressing global markets with end-to-end telecom network capabilities.
- **The Canadian government** has been consistently supportive of the partnership.
- **Other Canadian shareholders** include Cancom Telecommunications Inc., a provider of satellite telecommunications services, and General Discovery, a trading company specializing in Russian-Canadian trade. SovCan Star is currently seeking to raise the western level of investment in the project.

The reputation of the above partners and their long-term commitment to the success of SovCan Star is a reassuring guarantee of quality, performance and reliability in satellite communications, matching or exceeding the best available today.

While 36 transponders are already fully committed to the Russian MPT to serve its domestic telecommunications needs, 84 more will be available to serve both domestic and international needs of Central and Eastern Europe, Africa and the Middle East, Central and South America, as well as Asia-Pacific and Australasia regions. SovCan Star's 20 steerable beams can provide quick and inexpensive mini-comsat networks to many developing countries. They can also provide TV broadcasting facilities and overlay voice, data and video networks for single or multiple users. SovCan Star aims to capture 5-7 percent of the available market by virtue of its cost competitiveness and technical excellence.

The first two geostationary satellites launched by SovCan Star, at 14W and 145E, will cover the Atlantic and Pacific regions, respectively. They will be launched in the last quarter of 1997 and in the first quarter of 1998, respectively. The other three satellites, located in slots between the first two, will be launched approximately a year later.