GLOBAL MARKET OPPORTUNITIES REVIEW

Draft

PRIORITY SECTOR: SOFTWARE PRODUCTS

PURPOSE:

To focus and enhance trade development in support of

the computer software products sector.

SECTOR DESCRIPTION:

User Application Development Tools

Communications Interface Software

Project Management/Control Products

Educational Aids/Professional Training

Health Care Applications

Computer Aided Design/Manufacturing (CAD/CAM)

Office Systems

DeskTop Publishing

AI/Expert Systems

Point-of-Sale (POS)

Graphics Design

Other Niche Products

"Despite the worldwide recession - in 1990 World IT (Information Technology) sales grew 8.9% to \$US278.5 Billion (\$US184 billion in North America). The top 100 North American IT suppliers grew their PC, mid-range, workstation, software and services at a healthy clip but the sellers of mainframes and datacom equipment hit the skids. Some PC software companies, which alone accounted for over \$US3 billion in 1990 sales, are growing at a rate of 25 - 30% per year."

(Datamation magazine, June 1991)

As in most of the industrialized countries, software is the fastest growing sector within the Canadian Information Technology Industry. The rapid growth in the use of software products covers all communities - business, government, education, health, social services, manufacturing, research, construction, design and the home. Its use is growing in all aspects of daily life and some estimates put the global market at US\$1 trillion by the year 2000.