

CHAPTER 2

New Initiatives in Canada's Space Plan

In May 1986, the Federal Government announced a new Canadian Space Plan, with an emphasis on economic returns through job creation and increased industrial revenues. The Minister of State for Science and Technology stated that the new program "responds to the needs of Canada to manage our resources, enhance communications across the country, exercise national sovereignty, and build on our industrial strengths in all regions of the country."³

The principal element of the new program will be development of the Mobile Servicing System (MSS) for the U.S. Space Station and the creation of a Space Station User Development Program. Other major elements include support for Telesat Canada's MSAT, a new communications satellite system for mobile users; the development of advanced technologies and applications for remote sensing, including continued planning for a new remote-sensing satellite, RADARSAT; expanded cooperation with Europe through our membership in ESA and participation in major European space projects; continued support for the Canadian Astronaut Program; and additional funding for the Space Science Program.

A. Space Station Program

The U.S. Space Station represents one of the most complex and ambitious technological undertakings ever conceived. This permanently-manned orbiting facility has an expected lifetime of 25 years and will serve as the base for a wide variety of functions.

Canada was invited, along with other nations, to participate in this massive endeavor and in 1984 the Prime Minister announced that Canada was indeed interested in taking part. Our proposed contribution is what is known as the Mobile Servicing System (MSS). The space-based part of the system, known as the MSC or Mobile Servicing Centre, will help in the construction of Space Station, giving Canada an early and highly visible role in the program. The MSC will also have an on-going part to play in the maintenance of the Space Station structure; in servicing attached payloads used for materials processing, remote

⁽³⁾ Government of Canada, *Canadian Space Program*, News Release, Ottawa, May 12, 1986.