

sized enterprises (SMEs)) and the considerable language and distance barriers are contributing factors.

D. Canada

In Canada, there is no shortage of programs to support the formation of technology consortia, both domestically and with foreign partners. One commentator writes: "In the 1980s, provincial and federal governments became rivals in creating new links between corporations, both private and public, and universities."⁷⁵

The following federal programs support cooperative networks in research and development. Generally speaking, Canadian programs appear to be more open to foreign access through consortia in their application than in the United States and Europe. Officials report that Canadian consortia with foreign based members will be considered for support if the consortium can demonstrate that it will generate net benefits for the Canadian economy.

The Technology Outreach Program, established in 1986, funds cooperative networking to promote technology acquisition and diffusion. Technology Centres supported by this program do not appear to limit access to their services and are considered open to foreign participation. Officials report that the program encourages international linkages.

The Strategic Technologies Program, also managed by ISTC, is designed to enhance Canadian industrial innovation capabilities by promoting the development and diffusion of strategic technologies and encouraging the formation of strategic alliances, which may include foreign partners, although the alliance must be led by a Canadian firm. This \$30 million program was approved in 1988 for a five-year period. It has three components, targeting Biotechnology, Advanced Industrial Materials and Information Technologies. Assistance will not be provided directly to foreign companies or institutions but such organisations may be sub-contractors to, or participants in alliances to which assistance is provided.

The Industrial Research Assistance Program (IRAP) is managed by the National Research Council. Cost shared funding is available to aid firms in conducting collaborative R&D involving other industry and federal research organisations.

⁷⁵ Op cit. Niosi, p. 311.