



# ► Composite Materials

## Important market facts

- In 1985 the French composite materials market reached 142 000 t, ranking 4th behind the United States (975 000 t), Japan (260 000 t) and West Germany (215 000 t).
- In Europe, France ranks 2nd to West Germany in sophistication of its manufacturing processes, such as RIM (Reaction Injection Moulding). In France 68 per cent of compression moulding processes are highly technological, compared with 86 per cent for West Germany.
- Numerous companies use composite materials in various sectors (aeronautics, automotive, construction, sports and recreation, agricultural and industrial material, electrical, etc.).
- New materials are used mainly for military or aerospace applications (and are, therefore, sensitive). These materials have also contributed to impressive technological advances in weapons systems.
- The Japanese company Toray is a leading producer of ceramics and carbon fibres. In the second half of 1985, SOFICAR (a French affiliate of Toray) produced 300 t of carbon fibres in France.

## Market trends

- Annual projected growth in the sector until 1990 is about 6 per cent.

## Canadian imports

- Canada's presence in France is practically non-existent, except for the numerous contacts with research centres.
- There are a few small- to medium-sized businesses in France with a turnover of \$1 million to \$2 million that could provide a market slot for Canadian companies.

## Additional information

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## Useful address

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