4. Research and Survey Activities

4.1. Research Program

The overall program of research activities conducted for this project can be divided into six parts:

1) Seminars in Ottawa and Vancouver conducted by DOC/DOE and DRIE.

2) Initial indepth personal interviews with selected firms in Ottawa and Vancouver.

3) A mail-out survey of Canadian industry and research centres.

4) Personal interviews with 46 companies in Western Europe in addition to several government departments, ministries, research centers, and the European Economic Community Telecommunications Directorate.

5) Personal interviews with 14 selected research firms and government agencies in Japan.

6) Development and implementation of the ITRD electronic database.

All activities with the exception of the Japan survey and the seminars in Ottawa and Vancouver were conducted on behalf of the federal government by Wescom Communications Research International of Vancouver.

4.2. Industry Seminars

As a precursor to the main industry surveys, Communications Canada, External Affairs and DRIE held meetings, attended by almost 50 companies involved in R&D for informatics, in the Ottawa and Vancouver areas. Japan's Minister of Posts and Telecommunications was the guest speaker at the luncheon for the Ottawa sessions where he spoke of the value and desirability of international cooperation. During these sessions the purpose of the cooperative program was outlined and a questionnaire administered to the attendees. The results of that activity reinforced the feasibility of proceeding with a broader scale investigation of Canadian companies. The decision was also made at that time to proceed with a more detailed survey of the R&D activities and interests of companies agencies and research centres in Western Europe and Japan. In addition, it was decided to proceed with the development of a rudimentary electronic database containing the information derived from the industry surveys, relevant background documents, research abstracts and notable events relating to information technology.

The industry surveys and database development were conducted under the auspices of the Technology Inflow Program (TIP) of DEA and under the direction of the Directorate of Systems and Networks (DCN) and with support from the Directorate of Systems Interconnection (DSI) of the Department of Communications.

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