

2. Establish five new bilateral R&D collaborations led by French and Canadian public sector researchers;
3. Establish 20 Canada-France research partnerships in the European Union Research and Development Framework programs; and
4. Develop 10 technology partnerships between Canadian and French companies, with a majority involving Canadian SMEs.

D. Activities

In practical terms, access to French and European technologies can be achieved through:

- scientific exchanges and collaborative scientific research programs;
- technology acquisition through licence or purchase;
- technology partnership through collaborative R&D, complementary technology exchanges, strategic alliances, joint ventures and investment; and
- enhanced visibility of Canada as a state-of-the-art technology partner.

The following action plan is proposed to derive maximum benefit from the potential offered to Canada by France's — and Europe's — significant scientific and technological capabilities:

- i) The Canadian and French space agencies should discuss in the near term possible new co-operative

projects, with a particular view to promoting strategic industrial linkages. Also, the Canadian Space Agency will work closely with interested Canadian space companies to facilitate the conclusion of several new R&D and commercial agreements with large French prime contractors and major subcontractors. This will be undertaken in consultation with other government departments, as appropriate. The Canadian Counsellor (Space and S&T Affairs) at the Paris Embassy will play a key role in this process.

- ii) Report on significant S&T policy developments in France of relevance to Canada, and review all major French public sector research organizations of interest to Canada on a two-year cycle in order to provide Canadian stakeholders with information on potential collaborative research opportunities.
- iii) Pro-actively support the role of the Canadian sector co-ordinators under the France-Canada Joint Scientific Commission by encouraging ongoing liaison with their French counterparts, including through annual meetings between the Embassy and the French sector co-ordinators and through support to institutional liaison.
- iv) In consultation with science-based departments and agencies, target one sector annually to which Canada has access within the EU R&D programs, and promote R&D partnerships

