

### **C) Power Generation**

Colombia's total installed electrical generation capacity is 10,107 MW of which 7,873 MW (78%) is hydro-generation. The remaining 2,234 MW is thermal. With Colombia's electricity demand growing at an average of 6% a year since 1992, it will be necessary to initiate projects to add at least 2,050 MW to the country's installed capacity. With combined future private and public sector investments of US\$ 5.3 billion, there are opportunities for Canadian geomatics companies that have specialized technology for the electrical generation sector.

Colombia's electric sector is divided into several levels. At the national level, there is Interconexión Eléctrica S.A. (ISA) and Isagen S.A. E.S.P. At the regional level, there are several utilities, which service regional areas, such as the coast. At the municipal level there are local distribution and generation companies, for example serving Bogotá, Cali and Medellín. The sector is made up of a number of diverse public and private companies which provide a full range of services, including electricity generation (see annex 2 under Power Generation for further details on the important companies in the sector).

There are a number of power plants scheduled to be privatized. Once these power plants are privatized, there will be private sector investment to upgrade their services and make them more efficient. In the future, both the private and public sector plan to build a number of power generation facilities. This will provide Canadian geomatics companies with opportunities to provide their services at the initial stages of development.

### **D) Mining**

The mineral reserves in Colombia are abundant but the development of the country's mining industry in Colombia is behind other Latin American countries. This is about to change, as the Colombian government is looking at ways to expand this sector. The Colombian National Planning Department is promoting amendments to the mining code to provide incentives in this sector. Experts predict significant growth and foreign investment in this industry in the years ahead. New exploration and mining activities are just starting as the government begins the process of auctioning off new parcels of land for development. In the long run, there will be continued growth in this industry once the new mining code is passed. Canadian geomatics companies should watch these developments with a view to getting involved early by providing their services at the exploration and exploitation stages of development.

The new mining code is to be presented to Congress in 1997 and is aimed at promoting private investment in the mining sector by clearly establishing and protecting the rights of investors. This will include allowing mining concessions for 50 years and giving the rights of exploration and exploitation in the same contract. The National Planning Department expects the basic geological exploration of the country to be completed by the year 2000. The Instituto de Investigaciones en Geociencias, Minería y Química (INGEOMINAS) will be the government organization provided with the resources to complete this work.