

Data system wins international award

The Department of the Environment has won a major award from the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association, an international organization based in the United States, for its Canada Land Data System (CLDS). The award was presented in recognition of the pioneering role of the system, its technological excellence and cost-effectiveness.

It is the first time an award of this type has been given to a Canadian federal department and only the second ever to any Canadian agency.

Accepting the award, former Environment Minister Suzanne Blais-Grenier said: "I am delighted that this outstanding system, which has served Canadians so well over the last decade and a half, has found recognition by an international body of experts".



Suzanne Blais-Grenier accepts the Exemplary Systems in Government Award from William Huxhold, president of the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association.

environment impact data are other examples of the system's capabilities.

Used widely in land-use planning and management, the system is available to government, private and educational users. It is also currently being developed for commercial application as a marketable mini-computer system by Perceptron Computing Inc., a Toronto high tech company, under the federal program to transfer new technology developed by the federal government to the private sector.

A world leader

CLDS, a computer system that provides physical, biological and socio-economic information on Canadian land resources in digital, tabular or map form, is one of the world's largest integrated land resource data banks.

Valued at about \$200 million, data stored in the system includes a nation-wide inventory of the productive capabilities of land resources for different uses, such as farming, forestry, recreational and others, as well as information on changing land-use patterns across the nation, such as the urbanization of irreplaceable farm and fruit lands, or the loss of wildlife habitat to agriculture or construction. Ecological and

More oil in Jamaica

Petro-Canada International Assistance Corporation (PCIAC) has signed an agreement to provide technical assistance, engineering studies and equipment design to Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica (PCJ).

The two-year \$5.3 million (Cdn) agreement was signed in Kingston, Jamaica by Peter Towe, chairman of PCIAC, William Saunders, managing director of PCJ and Jamaica's Mining, Energy and Tourism Minister Hugh Hart.

Under the terms of the agreement, PCIAC will assist PCJ in improving the efficiency of petroleum usage at the Kingston refinery. This is expected to reduce Jamaica's dependence on oil imports.

The Canadian-produced equipment to be installed, is expected to result in savings of approximately 65 600 barrels of crude oil a year, valued at \$2.4 million.

The complete program has been estimated at \$12.9 million. PCIAC's contribution will be \$5 million while the balance of foreign exchange costs estimated at \$3.49 million as well as local costs equivalent to \$3.6 million will be provided by Jamaica.

Mr. Hart said that Jamaican foreign exchange funds will be used to purchase refinery equipment in Canada to the extent that supplies are available at competitive prices. This could generate up to an estimated \$15 million in new business.

A second component of the project, valued at \$300 000, will provide for supervision of ongoing seismic work as a follow-up to PCIAC's initial exploration.

Merchandise trade balance between Canada and the United States

Statistics Canada reports that the reconciliation of merchandise trade data for Canada and the United States shows that Canada had a record surplus of \$15.4 billion (US) with the United States in 1984. The previous record of \$11.7 billion was set in 1983.

The higher surplus was a result of a larger increase in exports (+ \$12.3 billion) than in imports (+ \$8.5 billion). Exports to the US rose by \$7 billion and imports from that country expanded by \$5 billion.

The largest reconciliation adjustments of the 1984 published values were: an addition of \$5.2 billion to US exports; a corresponding Canadian non-response adjustment of \$2.2 billion; a reduction of Canadian imports by \$1.5 billion for goods priced above transaction value; an addition of nearly \$1 billion to US imports for trade definition; and a reduction of US imports by \$0.6 billion for timing.

