

Even if we doubled our current science & technology expenditures, we still could not meet our total requirements in the near future.

As Prime Minister Mulroney said earlier this year in a major address on research and development at the University of Waterloo:

"The facile approach to our science and technology dilemma is simply to have the federal government spend more borrowed money. Yet ... such spending by itself is not the answer."

TIP fits neatly with that pragmatic approach. Many of the technological developments that we must have if we are to keep our economy running at full speed can be acquired from other countries at a tiny fraction of the time and money needed to "reinvent" them in Canada.

Simply put: In many cases we can't wait until Canada develops more of its own technology. TIP is a response to that urgent need.

Companies fighting for a toe-hold in highly competitive markets can't wait either ... and for those that lack the resources, knowledge and expertise to reach across our borders to acquire foreign technology, TIP is a vital bridge.

I'd like now to describe briefly how TIP works, and give you details of the results it has achieved over the past 20 months.

First, let me tell you what TIP isn't. It isn't bureaucrats in Ottawa telling Canadian business-people what kinds of technology they need.

Instead, businesses tell us what they're looking for, and we then get to work helping them find the technology, and ultimately, acquire it ... It's simple. It's effective.

The heart of the program is 22 TIP officers based at 17 of our diplomatic posts abroad. They are science & technology experts, highly knowledgeable of the local technology scene.

It's their job to put Canadians in touch with foreign sources of technology, and often they can do that within a week or two of receiving a request. TIP officers will also make themselves available to help negotiate technology transfers.