

already worked. So, instead of designing a hardware and software system from scratch, a lengthy process with no guarantee of success, the Department elected to buy and customize what already exists. This will eliminate many delays and will bypass most of the problems associated with working out glitches and wrinkles inherent in an untried, unknown system.

The development of the COSICS project produced a comprehensive functional description of desired requirements, and thirty-odd companies in Canada were invited to bid on the project. Three bids, from SHL Systemhouse Inc., Fenco Engineers Inc., and DMR Group Inc. were received and are now being evaluated by teams representing the eight primary interest areas, for such things as technical office automation features, security, telecommunications capability, text storage capability, training and user support.

While technical and security items top the requirements lists, ease of use for all employees of the Department is a major priority. Bidders *must* be able to produce a system that is user-oriented and functional on a practical, day-to-day level.

By mid-February the company will have been selected that can provide the hardware, software, training and follow-up support that best meets the Department's requirements.

The resulting system will be tested in a pilot project in New York, with corresponding units at HQ. A de-wrinkled version will be installed in the new Canadian Embassy in Washington, earmarked as the COSICS flagship. Its subsequent introduction into HQ and other missions abroad will be staged and carefully paced so that *all* staff have plenty of time to adjust and become comfortable with the system. A major component of the project is plans for complete hands-on training available at installation sites and in the COSICS training centre for everyone.

Implementation Update..

LOGO CONTEST

To initiate what is expected to be a creative and continuing exchange of ideas and information between COSICS and you, the Project Management Office has organized a logo contest, open to everyone in the Department.

- The winning logo will be used on the masthead of the COSICS Newsletter and may be employed as an identifying symbol on COSICS equipment. The winner and the prize will be announced in a future Newsletter. We invite you to send your idea to the COSICS Project Management Office at the Fontaine Bldg., c/o COSICS Logo Contest. Contest ends January 29th.

Survival des grandes étapes