

Together, these attributes create an inviting and cost-effective R&D environment wherein high-technology investments make good economic sense.

Canada's R&D advantage also stems from the availability of skilled researchers, high-quality labs and research institutes, linked together through dynamic research networks, R&D consortia and leading-edge centres of excellence.

Canada has an excellent university system that is graduating well-educated, well-trained individuals who possess the skills we require to carry out our software research and development activities.... Those skills...and the general quality of life one can enjoy here make...Canada competitive with what one would find in such major software development areas as the Silicon Valley and New England.

Helge Knudsen

Vice President, Software Development
Amdahl Canada

SCIENTISTS, ENGINEERS AND MEDICAL RESEARCHERS

Human resources are a critical underlying strength of the country's R&D infrastructure. Canada's pool of highly skilled scientists, engineers and medical research professionals is comparable to the world's other advanced industrialized countries. Despite its modest population relative to these other countries, Canada is eleventh in the world in the total number of R&D personnel working in industry, a number that has been growing at an annual average rate of about 3 percent over the past decade. The OECD has found that the proportion of research professionals in key Canadian metropolitan areas compares favourably to that in major American centres.

The universities provide a really strong base for our hiring in Canada. We have some of the best universities in the world in computer science and telecommunications, doing research work which stands on a par with anybody else's developmental work at the graduate school, Ph.D., or post graduate levels on the world scene.

Jim Mackie, Vice President
Newbridge Networks Corporation

Each year, Canadian universities and technical colleges graduate well over 40,000 engineers, scientists, health professionals, technologists and technicians. Many of these new graduates go directly into the labour force, others continue on at university, participating in leading-edge research. (See Tables 2.2 and 2.3.)

Major R&D-intensive multinational companies such as IBM Canada, Pratt & Whitney, LSI Logic, and Philips Electronics have stated publicly that one of Canada's most important competitive advantages is its pool of highly trained professional engineers, engineering technologists and technicians.

We can find world-class expertise on almost any type of technology within 25 miles of my office.

Ronald Morrison, President
Kodak Canada