

is strong from many countries, particularly the USA, and Canadian companies should be prepared to devote significant energy and resources to develop power projects in this market.

Environment Sector

Creation of a new Ministry of Environment in 1994 has brought increased attention to environmental practices and many industrial organizations are acting to change the way in which they do business.

The Colombian Ministry of the Environment is a new entity and has been actively setting up its organization and the structure in the country. It has been receiving a great deal of assistance from various international technical assistance agencies, including Canada, in getting organized and operational. In addition to structural/organizational issues, the Ministry is developing the regulatory standards for the environment. The Ministry will shortly be introducing its regulatory framework, which will be in conformity with established international standards.

As soon as the environmental standards and regulations are passed, there will be great pressure on municipalities and industry to meet these standards. This will require significant investments on their parts in new technologies and processes. The market is currently very much dependent on international sources of technology and expertise. Resources are being dedicated and plans made in the river/water treatment, waste management and emission reduction areas. There will be significant opportunities for Canadian companies that can provide technology and products to address these areas.

Under Colombian environmental legislation, companies must also prepare pollutant release inventories for their operations. The Ministry of Environment is updating the country's ambient air quality standards and preparing industry-specific legislation and investments for conservation and restoration of renewable natural resources.

In 1995 the Government allocated approximately US\$190 million over four years to the cities of Bogotá, Cali, Medellín, Sogamoso and Cartagena for air pollution control.

A further US\$12.6 million has been allocated for 1995-1999 for the promotion of clean industrial operations in the extraction, refining and manufacturing sectors. The program encourages the adoption of environmentally-clean technologies, making use of the country's vast energy and aquatic resources.

The environmental industry is very decentralized. Each departamento (or state) has its own Regional Autonomous Corporation (CAR), responsible for implementation of policies set out by the national Government.