Energy, Mines and Resources Canada

A satellite Global Positioning System (GPS) site and receiving antenna centred over a geodetic marker.

and registering interests and rights in those lands, particularly those of Canada's aboriginal peoples. The Geodetic Surveys Division establishes and maintains national networks of geodetic control and the Centre's International Boundary Commission is responsible for the survey of national boundaries.

The Canada Centre for Surveying has always had a close working relationship with the private sector and professional associations. Projects conducted by the Centre and the private sector include studies on geoid models, instrumentation and developing satellite positioning applications. Satellite positioning projects form a large part of the Centre's international involvement. Recently, technical assistance has been provided to such nations as Indonesia, Zimbabwe, Egypt and Tanzania.

Canada Centre for Mapping

The Canada Centre for Mapping produces and manages national topographic maps and the related computer databases. The Centre is responsible for aeronautical charts, geographic maps, Canada's National Atlas, publication of geographic names and electoral maps. Research and development in cartographic technology is undertaken through the Canada Centre for Geomatics.

The Centre for Mapping is very active in developing national standards for topographic and geographic digital mapping. The availability of widely adopted standards is essential to realizing the economic benefits of co-operatively managing and sharing digital cartographic data.

Canada Centre for Remote Sensing

The mandate of the Canada Centre for Remote Sensing is to improve remote sensing technology, to acquire and distribute remotely sensed data and to work with the rapidly growing remote sensing industry in Canada. In addition to its 120 staff members, the Centre has another 100 persons on contract from Canadian industry working on various developmental and technology transfer projects.

The Centre is responsible for remote sensing research and development within the Government of Canada. It was particularly responsible for the Radarsat Planning Office (RPO) at its inception. This office is currently planning the launch of the satellite-based C-band radar in 1994. The current focus of the Centre is on radar technology and applications, and on preparing for ERS-1, RADARSAT and other planned radar satellites.

Policy, Planning and Services Branch

The Policy, Planning and Services (PPS) Branch performs many corporate functions for the sector. Amongst them are co-ordinating the sector's activities, including external relations (domestic and international), providing policy and planning services and managing the reproduction and distribution of maps and charts, air photographs as well as marketing of cartographic products in digital and analog/video formats.

The Branch distributes topographic maps, aeronautical charts, geographic maps including those of the National Atlas of Canada. It provides reproduction services to private companies for use as base material for value-added products and has assisted a wide variety of agencies and firms in designing and producing such products.

Geographic Information Systems Division

The importance of geographic information systems has led the sector to establish a Geographic Information Systems Division. The division's mandate is to develop and maintain national GIS standards; conduct GIS research and support the development of the Canadian GIS industry; establish long- and short-term national policies and strategies; and promote and co-ordinate the development and application of GIS within the federal, provincial, and municipal governments.