



CHAPTER 11

Government Procurement

Foreign government procurement markets are worth hundreds of billions of dollars annually and offer significant potential opportunities for Canadian exporters. Canada is working on a number of fronts to improve and secure government procurement market access for Canadian suppliers.

WTO Agreement on Government Procurement

The WTO Agreement on Government Procurement (AGP) is the primary plurilateral instrument guaranteeing access for Canadian suppliers to the United States, the European Union, Japan, South Korea and other important markets. (For the most part, WTO agreements are multilateral in that all WTO members subscribe to them. The AGP is one of several agreements that have a narrower group of signatories; these are “plurilateral” agreements.)

Canada continues to seek improved market access commitments through the AGP, working with the other 39 AGP participants on an ongoing review of the agreement. Negotiations aimed at expanding coverage, eliminating discriminatory provisions and simplifying the agreement will continue in 2008. Several countries are negotiating accession to the AGP, including China, which submitted its application late in 2007. Canada will work with China, Jordan and other acceding countries toward securing equitable market access commitments.