

"The awarding of this contract to a Canadian firm reinforces our already excellent bilateral relations with Morocco on economic, political and cultural fronts," Mr. Crosbie said. "I should like to extend our appreciation to the Kingdom of Morocco for selecting Canada as their international partner in this project. It represents one of the most significant breakthroughs for the Canadian communications industry in foreign markets."

The Ministers congratulated Bell Canada International and all members of the Canadian team who worked so hard to win this major contract. The close cooperation over the past three years of Bell Canada International, the Departments of Communications, External Affairs and the Export Development Corporation is an encouraging precedent for future opportunities, they said. This is especially true considering the stiff competition Canada faced in bidding against other major foreign corporations who have always enjoyed great support from their home governments. Bell Canada International's victory is further confirmation of the technical excellence of Northern Telecom's technology and enhances the visibility of Canadian industry's performance as a whole in the communications and information-technology sector.

The Export Development Corporation is Canada's official export credit agency responsible for providing export credit insurance, loans, guarantees, and other financial services to promote Canadian export trade.

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