

6. Summary and Recommendations

The Canadian industry survey supported the strategy developed by the federal government and substantiated the interest in establishing closer ties with Western European and Japanese high technology companies, agencies and research centres.

There was general agreement that the government should provide support to facilitate the development of such collaborative projects. However, the government's role is viewed as being more indirect than direct thereby allowing industry to take the lead and determine where efforts should be directed.

The state of the Canadian information technology industry and the need for broadening the scope of effort in long term R&D make it imperative that efforts be directed to encouraging cooperation and collaboration. Such efforts will be needed to substantially improve Canada's standing in the international R&D community.

In addition, several other key factors should be addressed:

- 1) The need to create greater awareness of Canadian capabilities in Western Europe and Japan;
- 2) The need to ensure adequate follow-up with the firms in Western Europe and Japan once initial contacts are established;
- 3) The need to create precedents for Canadian firms to participate with European companies in the existing Eureka, Esprit and Race programs of the European Community and where necessary to contribute financial support for such initiatives;
- 4) The need to create precedents for Canadian firms to participate with Japanese companies in the existing Sigma, Fifth Generation Computing Systems and Human Frontier programs of Japan and where necessary to contribute financial support to such initiatives;
- 5) The need to maintain and provide regular updates to the ITRD database through appraisals of the Canadian industry R&D initiatives;
- 6) The need to ensure appropriate access to the ITRD database for Canadian and foreign firms while respecting proprietary confidentiality and to incorporate the Technology and Science councilors into the information collection and dissemination process;
- 7) Improvements should be examined for the database application software particularly the incorporation of proprietary and non-proprietary areas, communications access to the latter, as well as the use of knowledge based and expert systems.