

Communications are also a cornerstone of Canada's economy. Domestic business communications such as video and data networks, as well as mobile radio systems, are just some of the applications that link business and industry, often across great distances. Canada's resource industry, for example, relies on Canadian-developed systems and products for communications with remote mines and forestry operations. Similarly, remote control systems have been designed to monitor the flow of gas and oil through thousands of kilometres of pipelines in Canada's far north.

Internationally, Canadian manufacturers, systems planners and other professionals are retained by governments, international agencies and the private sector for major telecommunications projects. These range from the design and construction of satellite earth stations to switching systems, microwave networks, and pipeline/hydro-electric communications systems. In many instances, these projects are funded by Canada's federal government, as part of its overseas assistance programs. In recent years as well, Canadians have played an important role in the worldwide transition from analog to digital technologies.

Canada is also an international contributor at the planning and advisory level, as an active member in organizations such as the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), International Standards Organization and INTELSAT.

As the technological revolution continues, Canada continues to look to the future. Ongoing conversion to digital technologies in domestic systems is proceeding at a steady pace, along with development of a national fibre-optics network. Canada is also committed to the development of Integrated Services Digital Networks (ISDN) and in space technology is embarked on the development of MSAT, a mobile satellite service for users in rural and remote locations.

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