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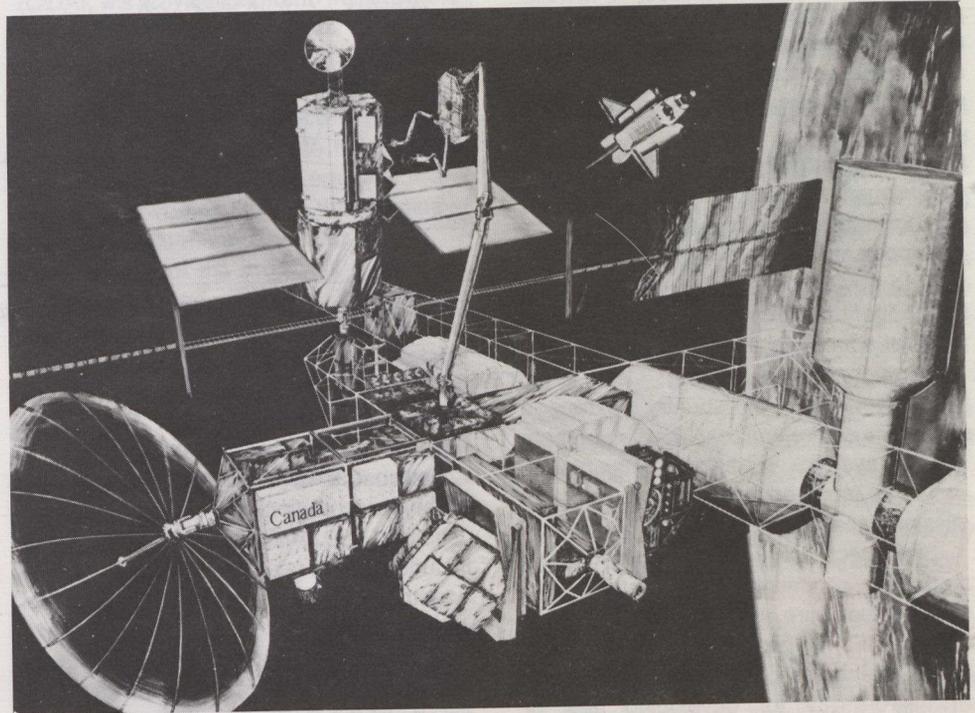
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Space station participation revealed in new plan



Artist's configuration of Canada's Integrated Servicing and Test Facility that is being considered for construction on the permanent United States manned station in space.

The federal government has announced that Canada will participate in phase B of the United States' program to put a permanent manned station in space in the early 1990s.

Canada's involvement in the space station program was outlined in the Interim Space Plan recently made public by Minister of State for Science and Technology Tom Siddon, Minister of Communications Marcel Masse, and Minister of State for Mines Robert E.J. Layton.

Dr. Siddon, who is the minister responsible for over-all space policy and planning, said that Canadian "participation in a space station ensures that we will be a partner in one of the most complex and visible technological achievements in history". He added that there is "the potential for significant economic benefits for the country".

The Interim Space Plan for Canada outlines the country's space program for 1985-86. In addition to confirming Canadian participation in the space station program, the

plan includes a commitment to maintain and develop Canadian capabilities in space, support for the implementation of a commercial mobile Communications Satellite System (MSAT), and continued development of a remote sensing satellite for resource monitoring and navigation (RADARSAT).

Current and future involvement

Dr. Siddon said the first step of the plan was to ensure that "Canadians will continue to benefit from the development and use of space technology". He added that "the next step will come at the end of the year with the development of a long-term Strategic Space Plan that will identify strategic thrusts, propose strategies for increasing industrial competitiveness and recommend program priorities and funding".

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney informed President Ronald Reagan of Canada's decision to participate in phase B of the \$12-billion space station project during the



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