

towns and cities. Much still remains to be done in building feeder roads and developing maintenance programs for the new road systems.

It is in the area of electrical supplies that Nigeria has had its greatest challenge. The Nigerian Electric Power Authority (NEPA) has been hard pressed over the last 10 years to keep its power grid in operation. During this period, installed generating capacity has increased to more than 2,000 MW and demand has quadrupled. Current projections estimate the installed generating capacity to be 5000 MW by 1985. An extensive program to build transmission and distribution systems is also planned. Canadian engineering firms have played a significant role in the electrical power sector and opportunities exist for the supply of power-related equipment.

## Construction

Building and construction has been one of the fastest growing sectors in Nigeria and accounts for 10 per cent of the gross national product. Recently awarded major federal contracts include \$300 million for a fertilizer plant near Port Harcourt, \$750 million for the Igbini power station, \$600 million for the Ajaokuta steel complex and \$1,208 million for new railway line construction. These contracts are totally separate from smaller federal projects, state government projects and ventures financed by private business.

Two additional projects which may be delayed because of the economic downturn include additions to the Ajaokuta steel works and construction in the new federal capital Abuja. The investment in each case is likely to range from \$1,000 million to \$2,000 million during the next five years.

Separate from infrastructure projects there is a pressing need for commercial and residential accommodation. The development plan for housing forecasts federal expenditures in excess of \$2 billion over the period 1981-1985. While this level of expenditure may be reduced, the need and popular support for housing projects remain strong and opportunities for sales of construction equipment and building materials are likely to continue.

All firms interested in contracting in Nigeria for government projects are required to form joint