

AECL shares with the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce a desire to increase the participation of Canadian industry in the developing nuclear market and AECL's many overseas interests involve relations with the Department of External Affairs and the Export Development Corporation.

While AECL does not make grants to universities, research contracts are negotiated in many cases where the university has the necessary facilities and expertise. Some 20 Canadian universities undertake such work for AECL. However, the close relations that have been built up with universities are mainly the result of personal contacts. During the summer, many graduates and undergraduates of Canadian universities work at AECL establishments. A number of professors also use AECL facilities for research projects, a service which, owing to the demand, is now available throughout the year under the aegis (at CRNL) of the Experiments Advisory Committee, a joint universities and CRNL committee. It is also noteworthy that some 60 former AECL employees now hold staff positions at Canadian universities.

AECL has encouraged and fostered Canadian industrial participation in many aspects of its program by the award of research and development contracts and the employment of professional and consulting services. Development contracts have contributed materially in qualifying Canadian companies to supply services, materials and equipment to the exacting standards required in the nuclear industry. As a result, two Canadian companies are now established as qualified and competitive suppliers of nuclear fuels. In other cases, qualification results from trial orders, supported by the provision of a prototype or samples, specifications and assistance from the laboratories and technical staff.

International Relations

International relations have always been an important feature of Canada's nuclear program. Many irradiations in the NRX, NRU and WR-1 reactors have been made for several countries at their expense or on a shared-cost basis, notably for the United States, Britain and Euratom. In exchange for information on the Canadian power-reactor program, the United States carried out an agreed research program in support of AECL's work. Technical meetings and the exchange of reports have maintained contact between the British steam-generating heavy-water power-reactor project and the Canadian program. Informal exchanges of visits and information with France and Italy have taken place for many years. Italian relations have been strengthened and put on a more formal basis recently with the maintenance at CRNL of a full-time Italian liaison office. Close relations also exist between AECL and the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) in India, the first Canadian-designed research reactor to be built outside Canada (CIRUS) having been set up near Bombay in a co-operative program partly supported by the Colombo Plan. AECL also designed India's first heavy-water nuclear-power station, the Rajasthan Atomic Power Project (RAPP), now under construction in a co-operative program. This will consist of two 200-megawatt reactors, each very similar to Canada's Douglas Point station.