

expansion of this service for household, industrial and commercial use, as well as for electric generation in cities of Santa Fé de Bogotá, Medellín and Cali.

The main gas producers in Colombia are Texaco, Amoco and ECOPETROL. Both Texaco and Amoco work in conjunction with ECOPETROL to exploit Colombia's natural gas reserves.

## **B) Transportation**

In the future, Colombia will face an enormous challenge in the updating of its transportation infrastructure. Roads and the railways are in a state of disrepair. The Colombian Government hopes to modernize the transportation infrastructure through privatizing government operators and by providing concessions to private industry transportation companies. The Government is providing investment incentives and plans to promote more private investment in this sector of the economy. Projected investments between 1995 and 1998 for roads and railway infrastructure, according to President Samper's "El Salto Social" were estimated at over US\$ 8 billion.

Colombia has 118,641 km of roads, of which 12,582 km are paved main roads and 57,775 km are secondary roads. To improve road links, a major investment program has been launched, in which the private sector will participate through concession contracts and receive some financial support from the government.

Another area of transportation providing opportunities for Canadian geomatics companies is the railroad system, on which the Colombian Government is placing priority for private sector investment. The Colombian government, through FERROVIAS, is prepared to commit substantial resources toward the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the railway in order to improve its competitiveness relative to alternative methods of transport. Investment projects totalling some US\$ 200 million are presently in process or under contract on the La Loma - Cienaga and San Rafael - Grecia sections of the Atlantic network. Future estimated investments needed to upgrade the Atlantic Network will amount to about US\$ 205 million and for the Pacific Network US \$189 million.