

Canada-European Union

Agreement for Scientific and Technological Co-operation

On June 17, 1995 in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada and the European Union signed the Agreement for Scientific and Technological Co-operation. The Agreement was signed in the presence of Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, President Jacques Chirac and European Commission President Jacques Santer, who were in Halifax for the G-7 Summit.

The Agreement with the European Union (EU) gives Canadian companies, universities and research institutes the opportunity to join with European partners in research and technological development (RTD) projects under the European Union's RTD Programs. These projects comprise leading-edge opportunities in the areas of basic research, basic industrial research, applied research and pre-competitive technological development.

The Agreement will enhance opportunities for Canadian organizations to participate in leading-edge R&D, to facilitate the development of results that conform with EU technical standards and to establish good research linkages that have the potential for downstream commercial opportunities. The Agreement is reciprocal, giving EU institutions and companies the opportunity to participate in complementary Canadian R&D projects.

The Agreement is expected to be interpreted broadly and to encompass a wide range of research areas. The potential areas of co-operation listed in the Agreement are:

- agriculture (including fisheries);

- medical and health research;
- non-nuclear energy;
- environment (including earth observation);
- forestry;
- information technologies;
- communication technologies;
- telematics for economic and social development; and
- mineral processing.

The two sides agreed to establish a Joint Science and Technology Co-operation Committee to oversee the operation of the Agreement and to allow for discussion on adding new areas of co-operation. The Agreement also covers shared use of research facilities, exchange visits by scientific and technical personnel, and information exchange and related activities. It also contains an annex on the management, allocation and exercise of intellectual property rights.

The Canadian companies and institutions expected to take an interest in these developments are those for whom R&D is a critical component of their business and also those who aspire to develop or increase their presence in Europe. The contacts facilitated by the Agreement should increase access to European consortia with similar or related interests. In knowledge-intensive product/services sectors, it is frequently the coming together at the technical level that underpins the confidence for subsequent marketing and related entrepreneurial joint ventures.

In short, the Agreement establishes a framework that will facilitate economic and social benefits, as well as develop strategic alliances within Canada and

internationally, particularly in research, development, and technology diffusion and transfer. With the Agreement, Canadian researchers now have full opportunity to participate in projects conducted under the EU's Framework Programs.

The Commission maintains an on-line database of its R&D activities called CORDIS (Community On-line Research and Development Information Service), containing non-confidential summaries, progress reports and matchmaking listings for organizations seeking partners. Canadian organizations looking for European partners in the areas mentioned in the Agreement would find CORDIS a valuable starting point. CORDIS can be accessed electronically if one has "live" Internet access (i.e. SLIP, IP connection) through: MOSAIC or NETSCAPE, for a Windows-style access; LYNX, for a non-Windows style access like DOS or UNIX (for both, the command is: [HTTP://www.cordis.lu/](http://www.cordis.lu/)).

More information about the Agreement may be obtained by requesting the following publications from DFAIT's InfoCentre (see box at bottom of page 12):

- * Partnership Opportunities: Processes and Procedures, Document #84008
- * Guide to Submitting Project Proposals, Document #84009
- * Guide to Negotiating and Managing Canada/EU Research Contracts, Document #84010
- * Guide to the Protection of Intellectual Property, Document #84011.

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