

In addition, key factors to be addressed are the need:

- 1) to create greater awareness of Canadian capabilities in Western Europe and Japan;
- 2) to ensure adequate follow-up with the firms in Western Europe and Japan once initial contacts are established;
- 3) to create precedents for Canadian firms to participate with European companies in the existing Eureka, Esprit and Race programs of the European Community and where necessary to contribute financial support for such initiatives;
- 4) to create precedents for Canadian firms, to participate with Japanese companies in the existing Sigma, Fifth Generation Computing Systems and Human Frontier programs of Japan and where necessary to contribute financial support to such initiatives;
- 5) to maintain the ITRD database through regular appraisals of Canadian industry R&D initiatives;
- 6) to ensure appropriate access to the ITRD database for Canadian and foreign firms while respecting proprietary confidentiality and to incorporate the Technology and Science counsellors into the information collection and dissemination process;
- 7) to improve the database application software particularly in the incorporation of proprietary and non-proprietary areas, communications access to the latter, as well as the use of knowledge based and expert systems.

The initiative of the government to stimulate and encourage cooperation through this project has received favorable responses from Canada, Western Europe and Japan. However, this activity, it must be remembered, was initially designed as a prototype to determine the feasibility of such endeavors. There is therefore an important need to provide adequate follow-up to these efforts and to provide the necessary support for the pursuit of immediate opportunities. In addition, the longer term goal is the specification and implementation of strategies for Canada which will stimulate key areas of basic and applied research in information technology.