

... AT YOUR SERVICE ...

Private Electronic Bulletin Board Launched by DFAIT

Developed by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's (DFAIT) Trade Information Systems Division on behalf of the Department's Infocentre to complement the currently available FaxLink service, this pilot BBS project has two main objectives:

- to test the demand for electronic dissemination of international business development and market information to small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs).
- to provide on-line access to a comprehensive source of DFAIT international market intelligence/information in one place for the business community.

While still "under construction", the BBS already has over 1,600 files of documents in both official languages. Documents currently available include export financing and International Financial Institution Project Information Documents as well as the monthly operational summary reports for both the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and the International Development Bank (IDB). It is expected that the BBS soon will include market studies, country profiles and trade mission reports.

This menu-driven, full-text information source, with search and download capabilities and E-Mail link, is available 24 hours, 7 days a week. Its documents are sourced from national, international, public and private sources and cover all aspects of international business.

The BBS has been developed on behalf of the Department's Infocentre and complements the latter's FaxLink and Hotline services.

Although the BBS is still under construction, users familiar with

how to use a BBS (such as those of CIDA or Industry Canada or Ottawa's Freenet) can log-in via a personal computer and a modem to register on-line. Here's how:

- direct dial Ottawa (613) 944-1581;
- Modem to 14,000 baud, line setting N-8-1;
- ANSI/ASCII terminal emulation.

Outside of Ottawa, the BBS may also be reached by dialling 1-800-628-1581.

The BBS soon will be available to Datapec users at 2020049821.

For more information about the BBS, contact Bill Skinner, Trade Information Systems Division, DFAIT. Tel.: (613)996-1907. Fax: (613) 992-3004.

InfoCentre FaxLink Now International

Designed to provide foreign traders, investors and businesspeople with information on Canada, its business environment, laws and export capabilities, this new service operated by the InfoCentre of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) now is up and running.

This service complements the FaxLink which has been provided to Canadians since February 1994 (CanadExport, April 15, 1994 issue). Both the domestic and international services are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and are accessed by calling (613) 944-6500; the domestic phone number is (613) 944-4500.

"This new service will instantly provide information of use to our trade and investment partners around the world", Minister for International Trade, Roy MacLaren indicated at the inauguration ceremony of the FaxLink service. "It is one more tool in our kit of programs to strengthen the Canadian economy through trade and investment."

For more information on both the domestic and international services, call the FaxLink Administrator at (613) 995-1874.

Collection Orders "The Royal" Way

Canadian exporters now can more quickly and easily prepare direct collection orders — thanks to a new PC program offered by the Royal Bank of Canada.

This easy-to-use service, the first to be offered by a Canadian chartered bank, accelerates the delivery of documents to the buyer, thereby speeding up the payment process and eliminating the need for a typewriter.

Quite simply, the application allows the bank's trade clients to complete the order (a standard template letter) on their personal

computer and send it, with their related collection documents, directly to the foreign buyer's bank.

As well, clients can use the electronic version to update for repeat collections or to save in their system for future reference.

Complete details on this new service to Canadian exporters are available from Shelley Sunohara (tel.: 416-974-3180) or Jerry D'Oliveira (tel.: 416-974-4819), Royal Bank Trade Group, Royal Bank of Canada, 200 Bay Street, 9th Floor, South Tower, Toronto M5J 2J5. Fax: (416) 974-6023.