

As most of you know, Spar is a Canadian company, involved in the design, development, manufacturing and servicing of products for the aerospace, aviation, communications and defence industry. Prior to 1982, Spar had participated in the production of more than 50 satellites around the world. In 1982, Spar was awarded a 160 million dollar prime contract to provide two satellites and related ground control systems for Embratel, the Brazilian government-owned telecommunications company.

This space project marked a number of historic firsts:

- the first domestic communications satellite in South America;
- the first joint Canadian-Brazilian effort to bring to Brazil the benefits of satellite communications;
- the first Canadian prime contract for satellites and related ground equipment to serve an international market.

In December, 1984, we inaugurated the tracking and control centre in Guaratiba, outside Rio de Janeiro. Twenty-two additional earth stations have been built during 1985 and 1986, serving telephone and television needs of private citizens, government, industry and off-shore platforms. The system reaches 175 cities in Brazil.

Spar, being the prime contractor, entered into an offset agreement with the government of Brazil. Under the terms of this, Spar would develop 60 million dollars worth of Brazilian exports globally and pursue an additional 105 million dollars worth of business on a "best effort basis".