

Shelf have demonstrated the offshore hydrocarbon potential of Western Australia's continental shelf. Unfortunately, however, recent exploratory results at the Exmouth Plateau have not been encouraging. To date four consortia - Esso Australia, Phillips Australia Oil, Woodside Petroleum Development and Highbay Oil (Australian) - have drilled 10 wells and found only limited gas shows. Under terms of the permits covering the Exmouth Plateau and the North West Shelf, minimum offshore exploration work commitments require, over the five-year period ending in 1984-85, the drilling of 118 wells and an expenditure of at least \$500 million. Other areas that have attracted new exploration consortia include the Otway Basin in Victoria; the Perth Basin and Great Australian Bight, off Western Australia; the Gulf of Carpentaria (Queensland), and the Arafura Sea in the Northern Territory.

Many Canadian exploration companies are already active in Australia. Their ongoing activities should provide good opportunities for Canadian suppliers. Some of the equipment for which demand is expected includes:

Communications equipment and services; compressors; connectors; corrosion control equipment; diving equipment and services; drilling equipment and tools; drilling services; engineering and technical services; geophysical equipment and services; instrumentation systems - electrical and hydraulic; measurement instruments; navigational instruments; noise control equipment; oceanographic equipment; oil spill and pollution control equipment; oilwell completion, drilling, production and instrumentation equipment; pipeline equipment; pressure-valve pumps; pressure vessels; repair, maintenance and inspection services; ships, boats and vessels; and subsea equipment.

iii) Pipeline:

There are currently five major gas and three major crude oil pipelines in Australia. In addition, many small-diameter petroleum product lines are in use, some dating back to before 1955. With present projects and plans for numerous small-diameter, relatively short-distance pipelines, the capacity of the local construction industry will be strained during the next several years. Two major larger-