

instruments researchers need to work on a broad range of projects ranging from routine tests to advanced research.

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The NRC also provides scientific and technological services, including on-line data base and document delivery and lending services through its Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information.

Thanks to this structure, the NRC has the ability to answer every year some 400,000 requests for information.

The support which the NRC provides to the national scientific and technological infrastructure also includes IRAP, the Industrial Research Assistance Program. This is a highly regarded government program which provides every year financial and technological assistance to thousands of Canadian businesses.

The NRC also carries out and supports research in a number of areas which can be classified as public or national interest-oriented.

This activity, which involves yearly expenditures of over \$100 million, includes the operation and administration of the federal observatories, the national scientific library, the national measuring standards, as well as the development of the national building and fire codes.

The NRC's scientific and technical skills and facilities also contribute to national priorities within the framework of formal and co-operation agreements with the various federal departments and organizations which must assume a leadership role in some specific areas.

These organizations include the Department of National Defence which works in close co-operation with NRC's air space scientists, Transport Canada which co-operates with the NRC on a number of transport security related issues, as well as Environment Canada which the NRC is helping to identify government priorities in the area of environmental protection.

The NRC also carries out long-term research activities as a sort of insurance policy to help Canada face such crises as the tainted mussels in 1987.

Supply

These oriented long-term generic skills will make it possible for Canada to take advantage of new developments and opportunities, the same way the research and development laboratories of a major corporation meet the needs of its production departments.

The NRC also does economic research in co-operation with industrial partners. These joint efforts may involve major companies which work with the NRC to carry out strategic research and development projects and to develop and market new products. Or again they may involve groups of companies, each of which may eventually benefit directly from these joint endeavours.

The NRC sponsors major technological programs in such fields as industrial materials, biotechnology and information technologies from which many companies and industrial sectors benefit.

The NRC's major research programs are a source of general reference for leading industrial sectors. For instance, the Institute for Research in Construction is the main pool of expertise for Canada's building industry whose activities run into billions of dollars every year. Through the National Aeronautical Establishment, the Institute for Marine Dynamics and other engineering divisions, the NRC provides similar support for many sectors of the transport and transport equipment industries.

In all these roles the NRC makes a major contribution to train the highly skilled human resources needed by our nation. The NRC gives industry, governments and educational institutions access to major facilities, equipment and direct financial support to help them train the scientists and engineers they need.

The NRC also trains personnel on training assignments within its own programs and provides other means for trainees to learn at the NRC before going on to a career elsewhere. More than 20 per cent of the professional staff of the NRC holds such trainee positions, particularly under the research assistant program for scientists and engineers with graduate degrees. The NRC also offers an important student summer employment program and actively seeks to involve research trainees funded by its clients and associate agencies.