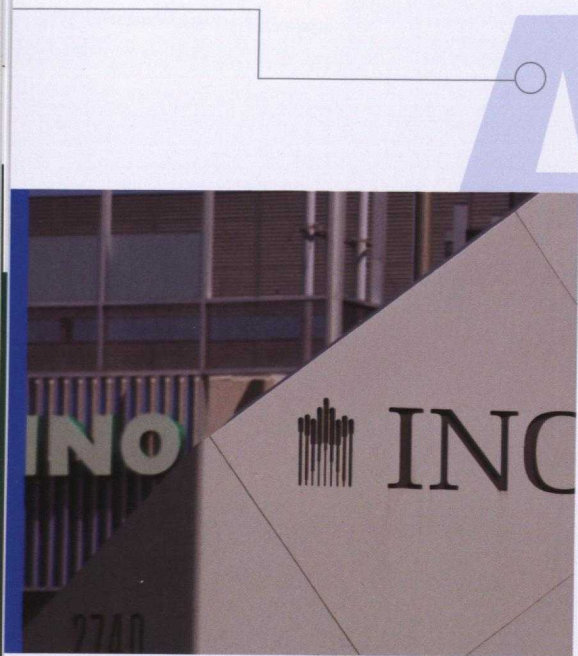


Canada's high-technology sectors are breaking new ground and transforming the industry worldwide. From developing the BlackBerry® and 3D animation tools for Academy Award®-winning movies to integration of wireless technologies into verticals such as microelectronics, auto IT, health IT and digital media, Canada is a major destination for global technology investors.



Canada's Institut national d'optique (INO) in Québec City is home to the largest concentration of skills in the optics/photonics field in the world. INO has a staff complement of 225 physicists, optical designers, electronics and production quality engineers, mechanics, electricians, programmers and technologists. INO offers a complete range of integrated services in the field of optics/photonics to clients in every area of industrial activity.

AS A LEADING DESTINATION FOR information and communications technology (ICT) investments, Canada is highly attractive to foreign investors. Its booming ICT industry is a key driver of national growth, having generated revenues of over \$155 billion in 2008. Over 572,000 employees work in nearly 32,000 ICT firms across Canada. More than 70% of ICT products manufactured in the country, totaling \$22.1 billion, are exported. Digital gaming, software and wireless are the key segments of Canada's ICT sector experiencing remarkable growth.

Canada's ICT industry is on the cutting edge of global competitiveness. In 2009, the EIU ranked Canada fourth overall

among 66 countries for its ICT competitiveness.¹ Canada topped the list at #1 for its R&D environment² and ranked #3 for ICT industry support.³ On a per-capita basis, Canada is the most active generator of ICT patent applications filed with the European Patent Office.⁴ Toronto is the joint #1 city in North America for ICT and electronics patents (along with New York City).⁵ Other major ICT clusters are in Montréal, Vancouver, Ottawa, and Waterloo. But ICT firms are also attracted to smaller Canadian clusters such as Calgary, Charlottetown, Fredericton, Moncton, Sherbrooke and Winnipeg, which offer some of the lowest costs in advanced software development on the continent.

Canada is ranked fourth in the world when it comes to IT competitiveness

2009 Rank	2008 Rank	Country	Score
1	1	U.S.	78.9
2	13	Finland	73.6
3	4	Sweden	71.5
4	6	Canada	71.3
5	10	Netherlands	70.7
6	3	U.K.	70.2
7	7	Australia	68.7
8	5	Denmark	68.6
9	9	Singapore	68.2
10	14	Norway	67.1

TOP 10 COUNTRIES IN IT COMPETITIVENESS

Source: Economist Intelligence Unit. *Resilience amid turmoil Benchmarking IT industry competitiveness 2009*. p. 5.

¹ Economist Intelligence Unit. *Resilience amid turmoil Benchmarking IT industry competitiveness 2009*. p. 5.
² *Ibid.* p. 16.
³ *Ibid.* p. 9.
⁴ *Ibid.* p. 16.
⁵ Loewendahl, H. Future Challenges of Investment Promotion. *fDi Intelligence*. September 23, 2009. p. 40.
⁶ *Develop* magazine, November 2009.