

becomes fully funded in 1998-99, it will have \$250 million to invest annually. TPC is funded by reallocations from existing programs (\$110 million from within Industry Canada; \$140 million from the rest of government); it does not entail new money. With investments fully repayable, through a share of the proceeds on successful projects, TPC will recycle all repayments back into the fund for future investments, providing an incentive to all involved to succeed.

For even smaller companies seeking initial capital for technology projects, the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) provides Patient Capital directed at early stage knowledge businesses, in addition to Venture Loans and Venture Capital. While the BDC operates on a profit basis, these loans meet a need unfulfilled by the commercial banks or private sector venture capital firms. Given the high cost of risk analysis relative to loan value, support by the BDC can encourage additional private sector investment.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade helps Canadian SMEs create international investment partnerships to provide firms with capital, technologies, managerial skills and access to markets. Canadian SMEs with innovative products, services and technologies in thirteen different sectors are identified, along with their investment requirements, and then profiled. These profiles, along with the advantages of doing business in this particular sector in Canada, are brought to the attention of potential foreign investors. International partners are then identified who can assist the Canadian SMEs to access new markets, provide investment capital, exchange technology, develop new products or acquire management know-how. Foreign firm interest is brought to the attention of the Canadian companies, and the firms then self-fund the follow up visits.

This is in addition to the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's collaboration with the National Research Council's Industrial Research Assistance Program (IRAP) to support the acquisition of foreign technologies and dissemination of international technology information, in order to enhance the competitiveness of Canadian firms through the acquisition, development and exploitation of appropriate technology. IRAP offers innovative firms advice, diagnostic services, referrals, and financial contributions for relevant applied research projects.

(e) the impact on Canadian firms of domestic regulations - federal, provincial and municipal - on their international competitiveness; and

The federal government is committed to rationalizing regulations across jurisdictions that hinder SMEs. High priority regulatory issues and specific deliverables for early 1997 have been identified. By the end of 1996, 250 regulations will have been revoked, and another 370 will have been revised.

Treasury Board Secretariat has produced, with provincial counterparts, a publication, Managing Regulation in Canada, highlighting regulatory reform and process at both the federal and provincial levels. The President of the Treasury Board, in his capacity as Minister responsible for Regulatory Affairs, has extended an invitation to provincial counterparts to participate in establishing a steering committee to oversee that Canada meets its OECD obligations in terms of managing its regulatory framework.

The President of the Treasury Board has committed to work closely with his colleagues to effect a major reduction in the amount of time spent by small business on responding to federal government information requests -- the paper burden -- by 1998. To help deliver on this commitment, the President has set up a joint forum made up of senior executives from the private and public sectors. Since its outset the joint forum has been instrumental in working with small business to reduce federal information demands. To date their work helped achieve the following:

- addressing over half of the approximately 100 irritants identified by small business;
- simplifying the record of employment system as part of the new Employment Insurance Act that will save employers time and money;
- introducing a new 30 day payment policy which waives the former grace period and encourages the government to pay its bills on time;
- reducing statistical surveys on small business by 8 per cent;