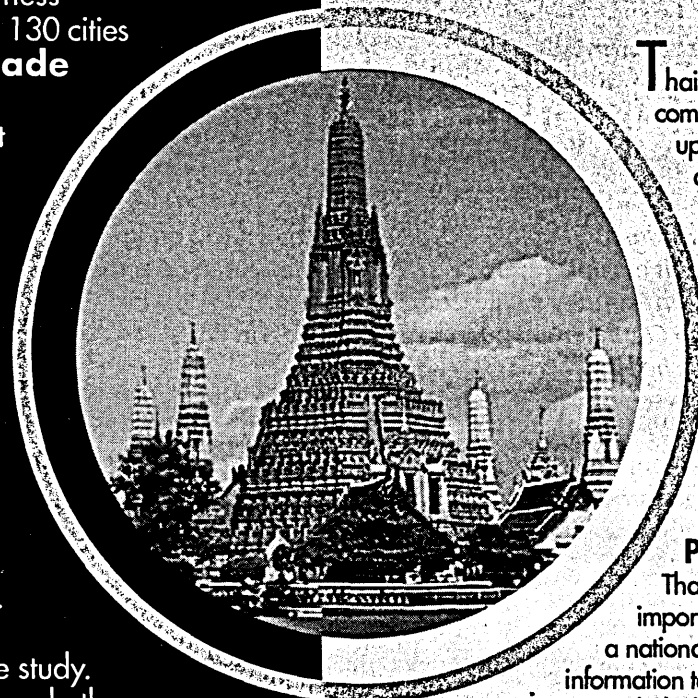


THAILAND

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The Information Technologies

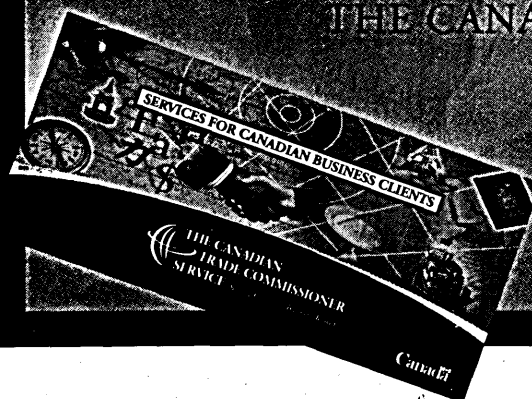
Thailand's information and communications sector is picking up speed and offering an array of opportunities for Canadian firms along the way. It is estimated that the sector grew by a healthy 40% in 2000 with a value of \$1.75 billion. This followed the boom year of 1999 where Y2K fears spurred growth to an impressive 35%.

Market Size and Potential

Thailand has placed great importance on the development of a national telecommunications and information technology (IT) infrastructure. Initiatives include the implementation of an expanded Copyright Law in 1994; the establishment of the National Electronics and Computer Technology Centre (NECTEC) to oversee IT development; and the cautious opening up of the two state telecom enterprises to allow for wireless communications and the Internet. To meet its World Trade Organization obligations, the Thai Government has adopted a master plan that calls for the gradual

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