Cooperation Agreements

There are a series of inter-government agreements designed to facilitate trade and investment between Canadian, Ontario and Quebec firms, and EC firms. It is important to note that trade facilitation and enhancement agreements also exist between cities and universities. The ones detailed below are only a sampling of the types of agreements currently in existence.

Baden-Württemberg/Ontario Cooperation Agreement provides for the collaboration of Ontario and Baden-Württemberg firms in several areas including high-technology, telecommunications, information technology, ceramics, lasers and textiles.

Rhône Alpes/Ontario Cooperation Agreement provides for cooperation in the development of technology through cooperative efforts involving public and private sectors.

CRIQ-ANVAR Industrial Cooperation Agreement is designed to encourage industrial research and technological innovation through consortia of French and Quebec small and medium-sized firms. Research funding is provided for short and medium-term projects.

ACTIM-MAIQ* Industrial Cooperation Agreement is designed to provide start-up funds for joint-ventures and licensing agreements between small and medium-sized Quebec and French manufacturers. The projects should lead to developments in manufacturing processes and R&D.

Other industrial cooperation agreements held by Quebec include: **Accord de coopération générale entre le Québec et la Bavière; Entente entre le gouvernement du Québec et l'exécutif régional Wallon; and Entente entre le gouvernement du Québec et l'exécutif Flamand.**

* ACTIM – en France, par l'Agence pour la coopération technique, industrielle et économique.
MAIQ – au Québec, par le ministère des Affaires Internationales.

Recognizing the important role of SMEs in developing the manufacturing base, the European Commission is considering how research organizations can best act to focus the R&D needs of SMEs. Projects should include at least 10 man-years of activity and the total project costs should fall in the range of $1.4 to $4M CDN. Community-based subsidiaries of multinational companies may participate if the R&D and its exploitation take place within the EC.

EUREKA is an intergovernmental program linking 19 EC and EFTA countries plus Turkey. EUREKA is designed to coordinate intra-European development projects. A total of 213 projects have received the EUREKA label and span a wide variety of sectors such as electronics, biotechnology, high-definition television and semiconductors.

EUREKA has no budget of its own but is funded from national governments, industry and the European Commmission. Projects are approved at the national level and then sent to a EUREKA council meeting for final approval. Participation from firms in non-EUREKA member countries is possible provided that the consortium consists of at least two firms from two EUREKA member countries.