Consortia have been forming in Canada at a rapid pace in recent years and they are numerous. Some examples include:

CANARIE Inc. (Canadian Network for the Advancement of Research, Industry and Education): This federal government project will build a national electronic highway that will link Canadian educational and research organizations coast-to-coast by a high speed, broadband electronic information highway funded jointly by the private and public sectors.

PRECARN Associates Ltd.: a large group of consortia with approximately thirty-four member companies altogether whose mission is to carry out advanced research and development in robotics and artificial intelligence (AI), among others.

OP-COM soon to be Opto-Electronics Inc.: a consortium of Canadian opto-electronics companies which has evolved out of initiatives taken by the Ottawa-Carleton Research Institute. This consortium is engaged in the development of communications technology within an opto-electronic computing environment.

SMC - Strategic Micro-electronics Corporation: a research corporation formed by Canadian micro-electronics and telecommunication companies.

TCC - Telecommunication Consortium of Canada: a telecommunication industry R&D consortium.

A more complete and detailed list of Canadian R&D consortia is available through the industry sector branches of Industry and Science Canada (ISC).

4.2 Rules of Participation

A. United States

i) Explicit Rules on Access (Participation)

At first glance, the rules of participation in federally supported R&D consortia appear to be fairly clear, open and above board. However, a more extensive review of regulations concerning technology support and R&D procurement reveals that restrictions do exist, although their application is fairly arbitrary.

Most U.S. technology initiatives do not seem to have discriminatory provisions. As technology assistance shifts towards support of commercial and non-defence R&D,