

As of late 1996, this commission was in the development stage. Board members are travelling to several American cities to study successful environmental projects. Specifications will be prepared for air, water and solid waste remediation projects as well as for zoning studies. The commission will also develop a legal framework for regulatory enforcement. In order to obtain funding from international lending institutions, an initial study is expected by the end of 1996. The remediation projects will be put up for international tender.

The state of Coahuila is already receiving funding from the World Bank to extend its *Coahuila Limpio Programa*, clean-up program, that was initiated in 1994. The state will receive US \$2 million to pay for environmental studies, training and equipment.

In the first stages of the region's efforts to clean up the environment, the emphasis is likely to be mainly on consulting and training services. Environmental assessments and risk analyses will be needed as well as expertise in regulatory issues. There will also be a market for measurement and analytical equipment. Over the longer term, the market for pollution control systems is expected to dominate spending. Build-operate-transfer (BOT) financing is likely for major infrastructure projects.



## **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND OTHER ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS AND SERVICES**

### **TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

No other sector of the Mexican economy has grown faster than the US \$3 billion telecommunication industry. The demand for advanced technology products and services has been stimulated by the privatization of *Teléfonos de México (Telmex)*, the national telephone company. *Telmex* was privatized in 1990, but enjoyed continuing regulatory protection for several years. Beginning in late 1996, long distance service was opened to competition for the first time, and local service is expected to follow. The objective of the *Secretaría de Comunicaciones y Transportes (SCT)*, Secretariat of Communications and Transportation, is to increase national telephone density beyond the present level of roughly 10 lines per 100 persons.