

At the Ninth France-Canada Joint Scientific Commission in May 1996, France expressed a strong interest in bringing Canadian researchers into EU research programs where French scientists are active.

Research funded by the EU under these programs is in principle pre-competitive but nonetheless supports applied technologies; the partnerships that result frequently continue in order to exploit the resulting commercial potential in European and international markets. Real partnerships have been formed. For example, major opportunities are being pursued in health research and applications of remote sensing data.

Conclusion: French researchers can play a key facilitating role to bring their Canadian counterparts into European research consortia undertaking projects with potential commercial application.

France-Canada bilateral space co-operation
Canada and France have enjoyed a privileged relationship in space matters for many years, involving co-operation in several space projects (e.g., in space science, remote sensing, and search and rescue). This close relationship, further strengthened by the participation of both countries in the activities of ESA (Canada is a co-operating state; France is the largest contributing member state), has led to the development, especially in recent years, of strong linkages between Canadian and French space companies, involving R&D co-operation and commercial transactions on world markets (France has three large space prime contractors — Alcatel, Matra Marconi and Aérospatiale). Canada and France also co-operate in several space-related

Areas identified for co-operation between Canada and the EU

- Non-nuclear energy
- Agriculture (including fisheries)
- Forestry
- Medical and health research
- Mineral processing
- Environment (including Earth observation)
- Information technologies
- Telematics for economic and social development
- Communication technologies

international organizations and in the International Space Station program (France is a key participant in the European contribution).

As a result, the relationship with France in space matters is key to achieving several objectives and priorities of the Canadian government, including development of the competitiveness of the Canadian space industry on world markets. In addition, it is likely that France, as ESA's largest contributor, will play an important role in the process leading to the improvement of Canada's industrial return from ESA programs, and more generally in discussions leading to the possible renewal of the Canada-ESA co-operation agreement, which expires on December 31, 1998.

Conclusion: Efforts must continue to further strengthen co-operation between Canada and France in space matters by identifying new activities that can be undertaken by both countries and

