

Europe, resources have been allocated to support public and private-sector initiatives to implement joint R&D projects with European partners. Contributions will defray partial costs of activities, such as travel, studies and the organization of workshops and missions.

4.3 Technology Inflow Program (TIP)

Many companies, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises, cannot afford to develop the new technologies needed to remain competitive. They must look outside to supplement their own resources. Since Canada only provides 2 per cent of the world's technology, it is often necessary to look for appropriate technology in other countries.

TIP is a demand-driven program with a \$5.6 million budget, aimed at assisting Canadian companies to acquire foreign technology. TIP's network of Technology Development Officers (see section 3.1.2) assists Canadian firms to identify, evaluate and source foreign technology. The program operates closely with the National Research Council's 200 Industrial Technology Advisors across Canada who assist clients to determine their needs and to take advantage of TIP services and support.

Since 1986, TIP has provided financial contributions, usually on a shared-cost basis, to over 1 000 projects for the transfer of foreign technologies to Canada. This usually involves exploratory visits by Canadians to other countries and visits by technical experts to Canada. TIP also supports long-term projects requiring foreign participation and complex technology exchanges or acquisitions. A sample of such projects is shown in Table 5.