

The activities of the industry now encompass a broad spectrum which in addition to aircraft and aircraft engines include avionics, flight simulators, space products, accessories and ground support equipment. The avionics segment alone has now achieved 1/3 of the total annual sales of the aerospace industry and Canadian electronic and avionic products enjoy an international reputation for technical excellence in many specialized areas.

The development of most of the aerospace products which have generated current industry sales was commenced several years ago. New products that will be offered in future years and the acceptance of these products by both domestic and export markets will be determined by the research and development effort which goes into the industry now.

3. THE NEED FOR INCREASED R & D SUPPORT

The aerospace industry is already a leader in demonstrating the effectiveness of concentrated, product oriented technological development. The industry is prepared to augment present efforts substantially but to do so, increased direct government funding is required. Other more general forms of support provide stimulation, but increased direct funding of research and development is essential. The Air Industries Association of Canada requests that serious consideration be given to expanding current Government R & D assistance programs by increasing the level of financial support for projects that lead to the development of internationally competitive products. In support of this straight-forward request the following comments are provided: