

The objects of the Agency are to promote the peaceful use and development of space and to ensure that space science and technology provide social and economic benefits for Canadians.

Clause 5 provides a more specific definition of the objects of the Canadian Space Agency, but still I should like to emphasize the significant fall-out from the creation of the CSA and particularly its future impact on Canada's technological progress.

Our national space program already has a number of outstanding achievements to its credit. Our success in space technology dates back to the days of space research when balloons and space probes were first sent aloft. The 1962 Allouette I launch signalled Canada's entry into the space era. After this initial scientific success we concentrated our efforts on practical space technology to meet our specific requirements. Two examples which readily come to mind are the transmission of telephone and television signals from coast to coast and to the northern regions, and the use of teledetection data in resource management. The new Canadian Space Agency will enable us to derive further benefits from space research.

The advent of the Agency marks the opening of a new era of challenging space exploration and development for Canada. By gathering under one roof the main components of its space activities, Canada will indeed be in a better position to benefit fully from the economic, scientific and technological fall-out from space experiments.

As I said a moment ago Canada's reputation in the realm of space science and technology is second to none. The specific mandate of the Agency is to work with the space industry, universities and provincial governments to keep Canada in the forefront. Canadian companies already compete successfully with world leaders in teledetection, communication satellite systems and space automation.

Mr. Speaker, the establishment of the Agency is just another proof of our Government's commitment to promote high technology in this country. It simply confirms the fact that in the coming decades our space research activities will continue to be a major source of economic benefits for Canada.

Space Agency

To that end, I would like to quote Dr. Larkin Kerwin who yesterday, at the official signing of a ten-year co-operation agreement with the European Space Agency, had this to say:

The Canadian space industry could get up to \$500 million worth of contracts from the European Space Agency over the next ten years, which for Canada would mean some \$2 billion in overall spinoffs.

That significant agreement signed yesterday renewed two five-year ones that enables Canada to take part in certain programs of the European Space Agency.

Over the last ten years, some 15 Canadian corporations were awarded contracts for some \$100 million with the European Agency. But Dr. Kerwin, the president of the Space Agency, predicts that over the next decade, contracts to the Canadian industry should increase to \$500 million. Also, a study done in Europe showed that the overall spinoffs in the aerospace area are estimated at 3.7 to 4.5 times the value of overall contracts, which leads Dr. Kerwin to suggest that spinoffs would be in the order of \$2 billion.

Here, Mr. Speaker, you have a good example that the establishment of that agency will generate significant spinoffs for Québec and Canada, while ensuring this country remains at the leading edge of that important industry with a future.

We needed a space agency, Mr. Speaker, because it will be the vital linch pin in the future growth of Canada's space program. It will help co-ordinate the various activities that are currently pursued in a number of federal Crown departments. This is what had been recommended by the Standing Committee on Research Science and Technology, of which I was a member, and which made recommendations in its report titled: Canada's Space Program: Voyage to the Future tabled in June, 1987.

The Agency will enable us to more efficiently manage our space resources, improve Canada's technological image internationally, but the industry in a position to improve its international competitiveness and also encourage young Canadians to make a career in science and technology. The Agency will be responsible for the space station program, RADARSAT, the space science program, Canadian astronauts, co-operation with the European Space Agency—whose first results were felt yesterday—, the David Florida Laboratories, space technology research and development, co-ordination of civil