

construction of the **Synchrotron SOLEIL** in Saclay (Essonne, near Paris), which will be fully operational in 2009:

- The overall cost of constructing Synchrotron SOLEIL is estimated at €271M (approx. CAN\$380M)
- The Ile-de-France Region will provide €149M (approx. CAN\$209M)
- The Conseil Général of Essonne €34M (approx. CAN\$48M).
- The government will provide €88M (approx. CAN\$123M), through the CNRS (FF418M/ €64M; approx. CAN\$89M) and the CEA (FF163M/ €24M; approx. CAN\$34M).

The government-region agreement on the Synchrotron SOLEIL also focuses on opening up this large scientific facility to the scientific community and to economic and social players, by:

- creating an industrial relations department responsible for informing companies about the potential of the Synchrotron, as well as a "club" for its industrial users;
- forging relationships with graduate-level teaching and research bodies to foster student and researcher placements and to establish the appropriate partnership agreements;
- collaborating with other French regions in order to optimize utilization of the instrument;
- developing relationships with other countries; and
- creating a communications group to promote its scientific and technical achievements

#### **NATIONAL CENTRES FOR TECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH**

Another example of partnership with local communities concerns the establishment, since July 2000, of 15 **National Centres for Technological Research** (CNRT). These CNRTs link, on a specific site, research laboratories and - in certain cases - SMEs or SMIs that are associated with public or private industrial groups. Each CNRT is involved in a clearly targeted field of expertise and is destined to become a national centre of excellence in its particular field of expertise. Since the beginning of 2002, three new CNRTs have been set up:

- in Lille, specializing in electrical engineering and in power distribution networks of the future;
- in Picardie-Champagne-Ardennes, specializing in new agro-industrial and energy uses of plant products (chemistry, pharmaceuticals, cosmetic science); and
- ,specializing in "in Bordeaux multi-materials and composites

These 18 CNRTs should also play an active role in qualifying training (graduate studies, continuing education, etc.) and will gradually become preferred sites for setting up technological research projects.

### **5. France: International S&T Activities**

France is resolutely turning towards Europe. France's proposals – originally made in 2000 during the French presidency of the Community of Fifteen – for the most part prevailed. The result was an agreement among European Union research ministers in December 2001 as to the content, tools and budget of the 6th R&D Framework Program, which will cover the years 2003 to 2006.