

Naturally, the Algerian program is quite ambitious and unlikely to proceed as planned due to a lack of financing. The government's priorities are the restoration of public order and an improvement of the health and housing situations. Despite this, telecommunications remains an important sector for the government, and Canadian firms would do well to keep Algeria in mind.

## **AEROSPACE**

Canadian firms have been active in the aerospace sector in Algeria, selling products and services which range from helicopters to engine overhaul services. The government hopes to open more of its airports to international traffic and this will entail a need for improvements in infrastructure at those facilities.

The Algerian government has expressed an interest in updating radar systems, and in improving meteorological services through an introduction of satellite technologies. In addition, the potential exists to upgrade the major airports with Microwave Landing Systems, although this will probably be a long time in coming.

The national carrier, Air Algerie, is building a large maintenance base in Algiers which will require, upon completion, electronic equipment suitable for the maintenance of their fleet. Lab equipment and simulators have been mentioned as possible future purchases.

As with most other sectors, business in the aerospace market is restricted by financing. Grand schemes like the upgrading of rural airports will not likely go forward in the short term, but given the long lead time on such projects, Canadian companies should consider the long term possibilities.

## **DEFENCE AND SECURITY**

The Algerian military approaches the embassy from time to time, interested in various technologies (for example: night vision equipment). These are generally 'shopping' requests and there are few solid projects at the moment. Given that the vast majority of the military's existing hardware is Soviet supplied, there are the obvious problems of compatibility.

There has been discussion recently of the possibility of purchasing new high tech security equipment for banks. Most Algerian banks do not have sophisticated security equipment and along with other aspects of bank reform, it has been suggested that the installation of such equipment as cameras and other similar measures may be a logical next step.