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EDITOR'S NOTE

With the fiery blast-off of Alouette I 25 years ago, Canada launched its first adventure in space — only the third nation, after the United States and Soviet Union, with a satellite in orbit.

Since Alouette I's initial scientific mission, Canada has emerged as a world leader in the design and manufacture of space systems intended for peaceful purposes. It has established an impressive record of technological advances with communication and remote sensing satellites; the Canadarm; and the David Florida Laboratory, a world-class space simulation facility.

The Canadian space industry is uniquely competitive in the international marketplace — a result of effective co-operation between the nation's private and public

sectors. Ninety per cent Canadian owned, it is the most "Canadianized" of all sectors of the economy, with an enviable record of research and development that has generated export sales nearly twice the value of the government's space budget.

Canadian technological expertise has also contributed to an era of international co-operation in peaceful space ventures. A long history of co-operative projects with the United States was highlighted by the design of the Canadarm for the American space shuttle. And in other examples, Brazil's communication needs are served by a Canadian satellite system, while the European Space Agency's largest satellite ever is currently undergoing tests in Canada, the agency's only non-European associate.

The future of the Canadian space program is as exciting as its past, promising to continue the tradition of technological excellence and international co-operation. Ahead lies the launch of the next generation of communication and remote sensing satellites. Innovative applications of space technology will further the revolutions already under way in the fields of health care, education and natural resource management. As Canada approaches the twenty-first century, it is poised at the beginning of an exciting new odyssey into space.

Canada

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