

quently that the possibility also exists of accessing such knowledge. Governments, through their government-to-government relations, possess the unique capability of being able to open up a window on the research being performed by a foreign country and of facilitating access to such research.

Though of value to all sectors, this service is of particular importance to high technology industry because much of what is going on in this field is shrouded in tight industrial secrecy. In Canada's bilateral S&T relations with the FRG, the latter have provided examples of how conscious and determined efforts can involve national industries either directly in bilateral collaborative activities or can open possibilities of contract work resulting from such activities. Canada has not yet been able to develop this facility to the same degree.

In government-to-government collaboration there is a natural and powerful bias in favour of involving the Federal government's own S&T resources. Departmental research performers are immediately at hand, through their representation on interdepartmental committees, to provide the advice and actual resources so important particularly in the early stages of international collaboration. This natural bias is further emphasized by the very real practical difficulty of identifying potentially interested firms and of providing some coherent coordination to what could easily become an unwieldy group of provincial, university and industrial participants. The result has been a very uneven approach to international collaboration opportunities varying from an all sector involvement in the bilateral agreement with the FRG to an almost purely Federal government approach regarding Japan.

No artificial mechanism can match the knowledge of sector needs and capabilities possessed by the individual sector expert. The collective experience of the research element of any science based department is well aware of those university faculties, provincial and industrial research groups working on major problems within their particular area. There is, therefore, no substitute in international activities for a government official, highly motivated and on the alert to identify opportunities for other sectors - in particular the industrial sector - and prepared to take the time and trouble to involve appropriate members of these sectors.

This attitude already exists to some extent but it needs constant encouragement from senior management and central coordinating bodies until it becomes second nature; it also needs some simple mechanism(s) to help individual officials in their task of bringing other sectors in. Such