

TNO (Netherlands organization for applied scientific research) is now theoretically an independent research organization, with considerable infusion of government money in various forms. It covers a wide range of scientific and technological activities.

Other major technological institutes are ECN (energy research), GD (soil mechanics), Marin (maritime research), NLR (aerospace laboratory), and WL (hydraulics laboratory). Three technical universities, an agricultural university and most of the other nine universities have active science and technology programmes. The Octrooiraad or patent office is mainly responsible for issuing patents in the Netherlands.

KEY SUPPORT PROGRAMS

The following programs are aimed at the stimulation of industrial development. The newly formed Stipt organization will implement these programs at arm's length from other government departments; the Innovation Stimulation Scheme (INSTIR), which was renewed in 1989; the Technical Development Credit (TOK); the Business Oriented Technology Stimulation Program (PBTS), which constitutes the nucleus of national technology programs on materials, biotechnology, medical technology and information technology; a fifth program on environmental technology will start in 1990; the Innovation Directed Research Programs (IOP) are in support of research in universities and research institutes. A number of IOP's in such areas as materials, biotechnology, catalysis and carbohydrates are under way. An IOP on environmental technology is in preparation.

The Business Oriented Stimulation of Technology in International Programs (BTIP) scheme was started in 1980 in support of international projects such as EUREKA.

CONDITIONS OF ACCESS

No specific conditions for collaboration, obtaining licences or other forms of technology transfer exist, other than the willingness and capability of Canadian firms to master and apply the new technology involved. Also one should realize that 85% of all industrial research in the Netherlands is being carried out by only 20 large companies. Hence most industrial technology would be owned by large companies.

TECHNOLOGICAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR CANADIANS

Biotechnology is an area where active cooperation is being pursued through a pilot plant project. Advanced industrial materials and the environment would appear to be the most suitable areas where further cooperation should be tried. As well, there are possibilities for joint projects in telecommunications, language and image processing, new production systems, transportation and logistics systems.

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