

## **BANGKOK, THAILAND**

### **Telecommunications - Thailand**

The Thai economy continues to be among the most rapidly growing in the world. This expansion will require support in the development of a telecommunications infrastructure in areas relating to international trade, exports, investment and tourism.

There will therefore be a continuing emphasis by the Thai government on improving international telephone services, telex and facsimile, international data communications via satellite, and cellular telephone communication services.

The Communications Authority of Thailand is responsible for external communications. It plans to continue investment in satellite communication, submarine cable systems, digital microwave systems, radio services and optical fibre communications.

The Telephone Organization of Thailand is responsible for domestic service. It recently awarded a contract of two million lines to Telecomasia (formerly CP Telecommunications), and is tendering for a further one million lines for rural areas.

A third organization, the Post and Telegraph Department, is now responsible only for radio spectrum management, domestic satellite service, and international and regulatory affairs. In addition, many banks, universities and large state corporations have built their own voice and data communications networks, as have the military and police forces and other ministries and government organizations, such as the State Railway and the Department of Fisheries.

Although international competition is very intense, there are currently several major Canadian communications companies active in the Thai market, usually through the intermediary of a local agent.

### **Vietnam**

The telecommunications system in Vietnam is seriously underdeveloped. Given the country's large population, it possesses only a modest amount of telecommunications equipment, and what there is usually outdated and often in disrepair. Transmission networks are limited and of poor quality. Technical and managerial expertise are lacking and the network has not been expanded in over 15 years.

An improved telecommunications network is imperative if the country is to be able to take advantage of the ongoing efforts being made to reform and develop its economy. Financing remains the major barrier to development of the country's infrastructure. Foreign exchange is scarce and funds from international financial institutions will not be available