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REPORT ON THE COLOMBIAN

TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY SECTOR

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September, 1993

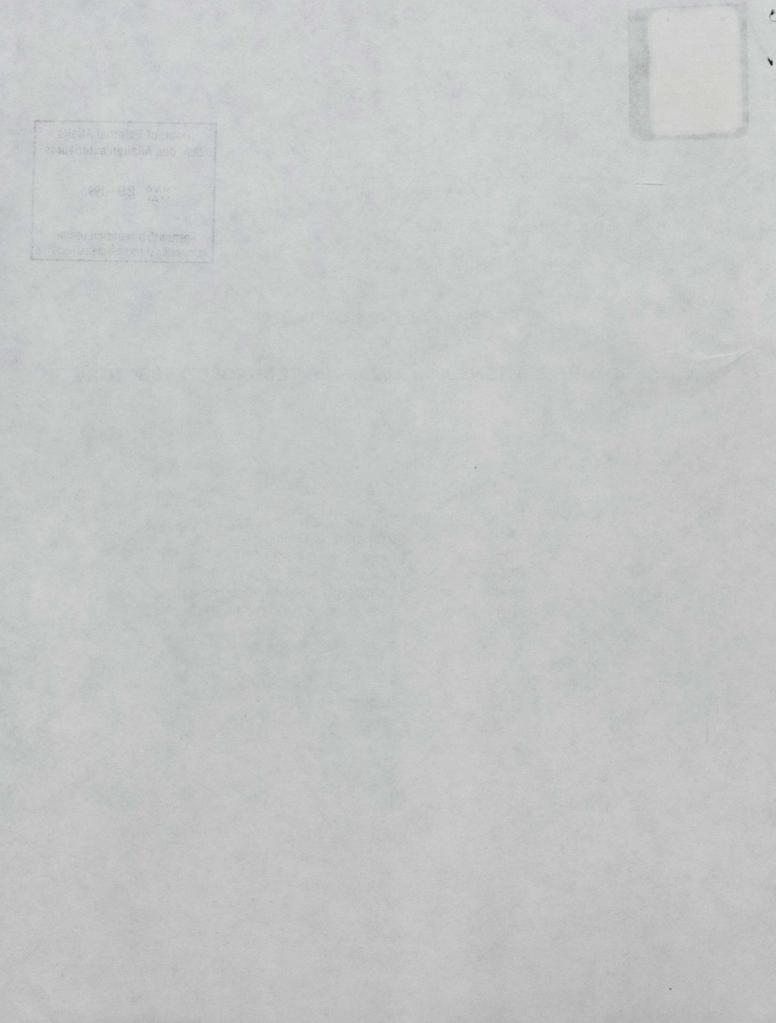


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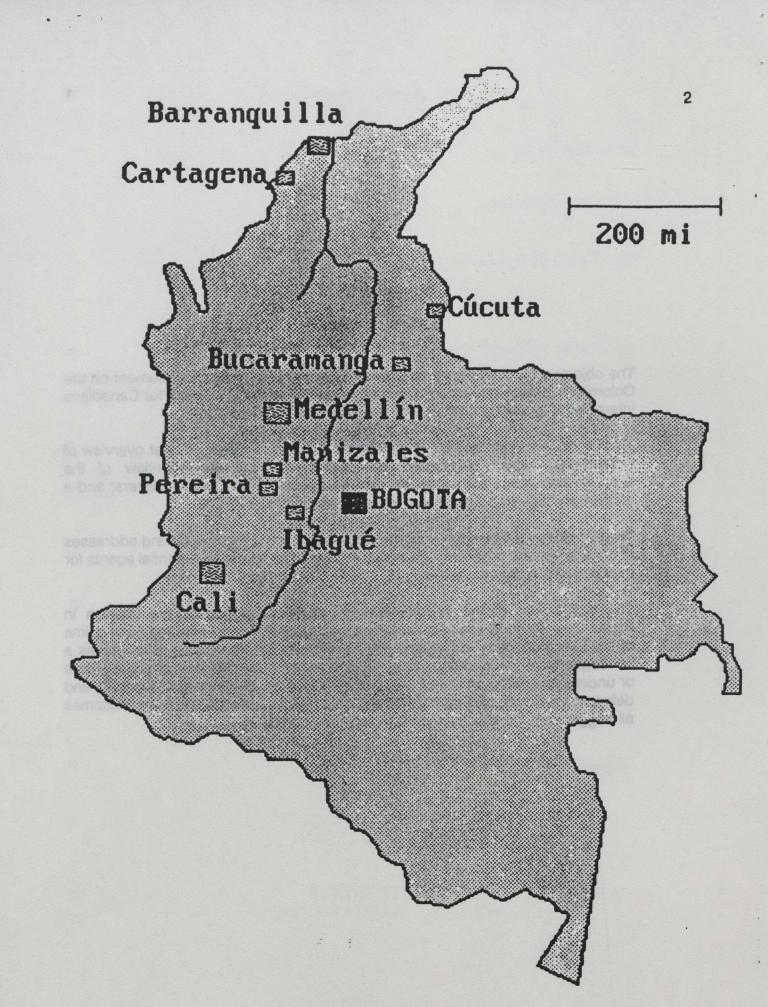
INTRODUCTION

The objective of this report is to provide a convenient reference document on the Colombian telecommunications and advanced technology industry for Canadians interested in pursuing commercial opportunities in this sector.

This report is divided into three sections to achieve this goal: a brief overview of Colombia's current economic and political situation; an overview of the telecommunications and advanced technology sector and its key players; and a section on "how to do business" in this sector.

The remainder of the report is comprised of annexes listing names and addresses of companies and organizations active in this sector, including potential agents for new entrants to this market.

The first edition of this report was prepared in the Commercial Division in September 1989 and this updated version contains additional information at a time of significant changes in this and other sectors of the Colombian economy as a consequence of the ongoing modernization process. Similar reports are available or under preparation on the oil and gas, mining, coal, electric power, security and defence, transport, and agriculture sectors. The Commercial Division welcomes all suggestions for improvements to future revisions.



COLOMBIA IN A NUTSHELL

GEOGRAPHY

Colombia is the fourth largest country in Latin America after Brazil, Argentina and Mexico and occupies a land area of 1.14 million square kms., slightly larger than Ontario. It is located at the northwestern tip of South America and thus has extensive coastlines on both the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea. Upon entering Colombia the Andes mountains break into three separate ranges running south to north. As a result of this rugged topography the climate ranges from tropical lowlands and jungle to temperate altiplanos and snow-capped mountains.

Most of Colombia's 34 million people live on the mountain slopes, in the fertile valleys between the ranges, and on the savannah (altiplano) of Santafé de Bogotá. Life expectancy at birth averages 67 years and the adult literacy rate is 88%.

The major cities are the capital, Santafé de Bogotá, with a population of six million, Medellín, 2.5 million; Cali, 1.6 million; and Barranquilla, 1 million. For administrative purposes Colombia is divided into 31 departments (provinces); plus the Special District of Santafé de Bogotá.

POLITICS

The Republic of Colombia won its independence from Spain in 1810. It has a presidential form of government with a division of powers among the executive, legislative and judicial branches similar to that of the United States.

The Executive Branch is headed by a President elected by popular vote for a fouryear term. Immediate reelection is constitutionally prohibited. The President appoints Cabinet Ministers. President César Gaviria's term of office expires in August 1994.

The Legislative Branch is made up of a bicameral Congress of 102 Senators and 161 members of the Chamber of Representatives. There are two main political parties, the Liberals and the Social Conservatives. A small third party, the leftist Alianza Democrática M-19 was formed following peace talks between the Government and guerrilla groups in 1987.

Colombia has the oldest history of continuous guerrilla activity in the western hemisphere. Nevertheless, the country seems to have adapted to levels of violence which would be considered unusual elsewhere and its democracy has been relatively stable since the last military government left office in 1956. After growing by 3.4% and 4.1% in 1989 and 1990 respectively, the Colombian economy expanded by only 2.3% in 1991, as the government tightened its fiscal and monetary policies to contain inflation, which reached an annual rate of 26.8 at the end of the year. Colombia remains the only major Latin American economy not to have rescheduled its external debt (approximately US\$ 17.0 billion at end 1991) although access to new foreign commercial bank loans has become increasingly difficult.

Basic Economic Indicators:

Gross Domestic Product 1991 Per Capita Gross Domestic Product Annual Inflation Rate 1991 International Reserves, December 1991 US\$ 41.7 bn US\$ 1,245 26.8% US\$ 6.0 bn

ORIGINS OF GDP 1991

Agriculture	17.4%
Mining	7.5%
Manufacturing	19.7%
Construction	4.6%
Commerce	14.8%
Transport/Communications	9.1%
Electricity/gas/water	3.0%
Government	8.5%
Total including others	100.0%

PRINCIPAL EXPORTS 1991

T 2000 Control to the state	US\$ mn fob
Oil and derivatives	1,466
Coffee	1,328
Coal	143
There are two main politica	
Gold	408
Ferronickel	143
Total including others	7,685

MAIN EXPORT DESTINATIONS 1991

USA	38.5%
Latin America	21.6%
Germany	7.5%
Netherlands	4.3%
Japan	3.2%

COMPONENTS OF GDP 1991

66.0%
10.6%
14.7%
0.5%
21.1%
-13.0%

GDP at market prices

100.0%

PRINCIPAL IMPORTS 1991

US\$	mn cif
Intermediate goods	2,530
Capital goods	1,575
Consumer goods	619
Fuel	270
Total including unclassified goods	5,000

MAIN ORIGINS OF IMPORTS 1991

USA	37.1%
Latin America	25.5%
Japan	9.5%
Germany	6.6%
France	
	3.5%

SECTORAL OVERVIEW

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Colombia's first telephone lines were installed in Santafé de Bogotá in 1884. In August 1943 the Colombian Congress approved a law to purchase Marconi Wireless Telegraph Co., established twenty years earlier, and to combine it with "Radio Nacional" to form the National Radiocommunications Company.

In May 1947 this company was renamed the National Telecommunications Company -TELECOM, and given a monopoly of long-distance telephone service. The Ministry of Mail and Telegraphs and the All America Cables and Radio Company continued delivering national and international telegraph services.

In 1948 Santafé de Bogotá's local telephone network was automated, and in 1949 the national government began to promote interconnection of local and longdistance telephone networks.

The year 1954 marked the establishment of the first telex offices in Medellín and Santafé de Bogotá, and the first television transmission in Colombia. A second TV channel began operation in Santafé de Bogotá in 1964.

By 1958 Empresas Públicas de Medellín initiated automatic telephone service with neighbouring municipalities, becoming the first metropolitan area with common rates and numbering and the first to inaugurate a TANDEM switch.

The All America Cables and Radio Company left the country in 1960 and as a result, the ownership of all national and international telecommunications was in Colombian hands for the first time. With this increased responsibility came a recognition of the need for highly-trained personnel, and the following year TELECOM created the Electronics and Communications Technical Institute -ITEC to train technicians.

In 1964 the responsibility for the telex system (Colombia had 8,000 telex subscribers in 1991) was transferred from the Ministry of Communications to TELECOM and in 1965 TELECOM joined INTELSAT (the International Satellite Communications Consortium).

The first stage of a high capacity national microwave network was inaugurated in 1968, and in the same year TELECOM telephone and telegraph networks were connected with Ecuador and Venezuela.

Telecom launched an experimental service in 1983 called DAPAQ to provide access to data banks from several countries. The success of this service led to

the opening of a tender for construction of a national data network called COLDAPAQ, won by Siemens, in 1986. This network entered into service at the end of 1988.

The current telecommunications system in Colombia has four components:

- The local telephone service operated autonomously in the major cities by a total of 22 municipal enterprises.
- The long distance domestic and international telephone and telex services operated by TELECOM, the state company. In addition TELECOM has developed a nationwide rural telephone network servicing isolated and remote towns via several strategically located earth satellite tracking antennas.
- The colour television network operated nationwide by INRAVISION, a state enterprise which through a public bidding process periodically awards time on two of the nation's three existing channels. Programming on these two channels is thus developed by several private commercial TV companies, while the third channel presents cultural programming created directly by INRAVISION.
 - The radio broadcasting system which is based mainly on the operation of a number of private radio stations licensed by the government. INRAVISION also directly maintains a radio station for cultural programs.

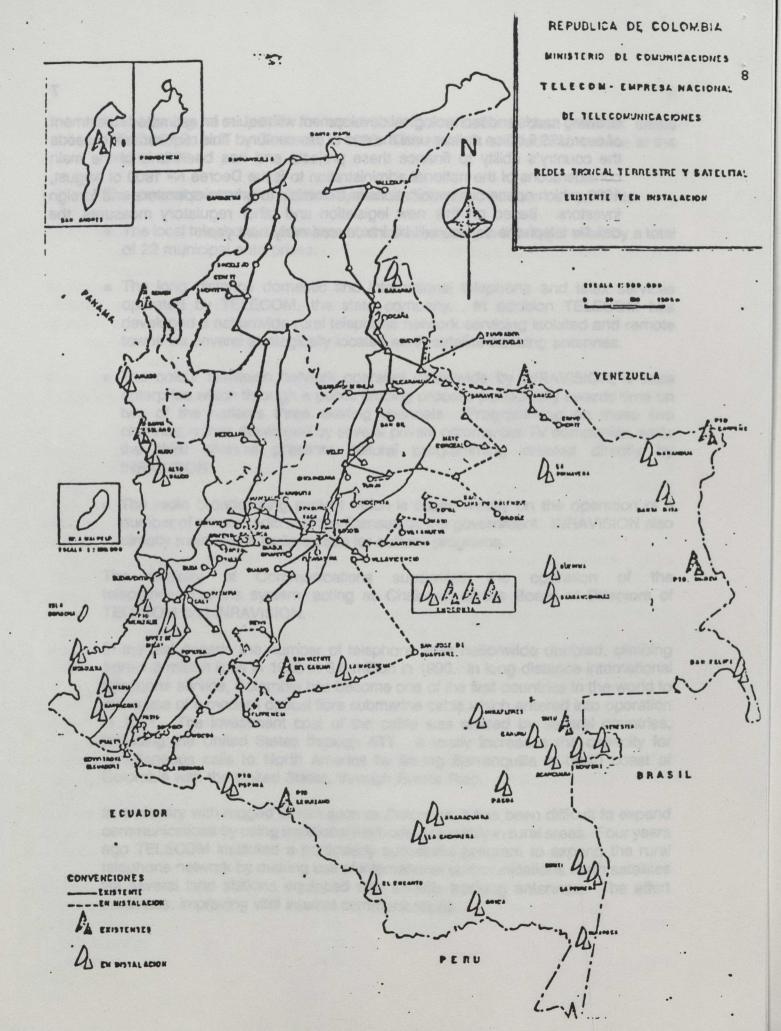
The Ministry of Communications supervises the operation of the telecommunications system, acting as Chairman of the Board of Directors of TELECOM and INRAVISION.

In the last decade the number of telephone lines nationwide doubled, climbing from 1.3 million lines in 1980 to 3.6 million in 1990. In long distance international telephone service, Colombia has become one of the first countries in the world to make use of a modern optical fibre submarine cable which entered into operation in 1991. The investment cost of the cable was shared by several countries, including the United States through ATT. It vastly increases the capacity for simultaneous calls to North America by linking Barranquilla in north coast of Colombia with the United States, through Puerto Rico.

In a country with rugged terrain such as Colombia, it has been difficult to expand communications by using traditional methods, especially in rural areas. Four years ago TELECOM instituted a particularly successful program to expand the rural telephone network by making use of international communications earth satellites via several land stations equipped with satellite tracking antennas. The effort continues, improving vital internal communications. Growing needs and technological development will require an estimated investment of over US\$ 5 billion dollars until the end of this century. This requirement exceeds the country's ability to finance these projects and has been one of the main considerations of the national administration to issue Decree Nº 1900 of August, 1990, which opens communications in Colombia to private operators and foreign investors. Based on this new legislation and other regulatory measures, the cellular telephone service will be introduced early next year.

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ALPUSLICA OF COLOR'BIL



TELEPHONE SERVICE STATISTICS

DEPARTMENT	OPERATOR	LOCATIONS	POPULATION	LINES	DENSITY
AMAZONAS		2	14,422	1,000	6.93
LETICIA -AREA-	TELECOM	1	14,298	1,000	6.991
OTHER MPAL.CAB.	TELECOM	1	124	1,000	0.001
			RUNE		0.004
ANTIOQUIA		124	3,888,067	479,053	12 200
MEDELLIN A.MAREA-	EE.PP.M.	11	1,907,884		12.324
OTHER MPAL.CAB	EDA	112	571,244	429,000	22.49
OTHER MPAL.CAB.	TELECOM	1	19,670	46,289	8.104
FOWNSHIPS	EDA	1000	19,048	2,000 1,764	10.17
ARAUCA		6	42,660	1,250	2.93
ARAUCA -AREA-	TELECOM	1	15,813	1,000	6.329
OTHER MPAL.CAB.	TELECOM	5	26,847	250	
			20,011	250	0.931
TLANTICO		23	1,428,601	00 000	
BARRANQUILLA-AREA-	E.M.T.	5	1,135,986	90,000	6.309
OTHER MPAL.CAB	TELECOM	18	214,943	89,000	7.83
			214,345	1,000	0.47
OLIVAR		32	1,233,623	22 522	
CARTAGENA -AREA-	TELECART.	2	511.549	33,530	2.72
THER MPAL.CAB.	TELECOM	30	261.104	30,100	5.88%
	TELECON		201.104	3,430	1,31%
OYACA		122	1 007 040	10 000	6.245
UNJA -AREA-	TELECOM	1	1,097,940	19,200	1.75%
THER MPAL.CAB.	TELECOM	121	87,851	7,000	7.978
	THURCOM	121	334,525	12,200	3.65%
ALDAS		25	830.004		1140年,日本市 1月1日日日日
ANIZALES -AREA-	E.P.M.	23	838,094	56,322	6.72%
THER MPAL.CAB.	TELECOM	21	294,790	44,992	15.26%
THER MPAL.CAB.	OTHER	2	225,042 47,430	7,630	3.398
	APRIL ROOM	1008 85 297	47,430	3,700	7.80%
AQUETA		15	210 405	2 100	* * **P * D * E *
LORENCIA -AREA-	E.T.C	13	218,485	2,400	1.10%
THER MPAL.CAB.	TELECOM	14	66,430 47,239	2,000	3.01%
		230000	47,239	400	0.85%
ASANARE		19	10 10 SAD	JARN SER	
OPAL -AREA-			40,186	1,000	2.49%
THER MPAL.CAB.	TELECOM	1 18	13,745 26,441	1,000	7.28%
INCA MFAL. LAB.					

DEPARTMENT	OPERATOR	LOCATIONS	POPULATION	LINES	DENSIT
CAUCA		36	795,838	11,650	1.46
POPAYAN -AREA-	E.T.P.	1	141,964	9,000	6.34
THER MPAL.CAB.	TELECOM	35	142,617	2,650	1.86
422 21 000	61 1 5		174	SANC	AMA
CESAR		24	584,631	10,350	1.77
ALLEDUPAR -AREA-	TELECOM	1	142,771	4,800	3.36
OTHER MPAL.CAB.	TELECOM	23	200,215	5,550	2.77
CORDOBA		26	913,636	10,250	1.12
ONTERIA -AREA-	TELECOM	1	157,453	5,200	3.30
THER MPAL.CAB	TELECOM	25	240,138	5,050	2.10
UNDINAMARCA		115	5,356,851	982,200	18.34
BOGOTA D.EAREA-	E.T.B.	8	3,974,813	945,000	23.77
THER MPAL.CAB.	TELECOM	105	632,652	20,200	3.19
THER MPAL.CAB.	OTHER***	2	83,975	17,000	20.24
CHOCO		19	242,768	864	0.36
UIBDO -AREA-	TELECOM	19	47,963	500	1.04
THER MPAL.CAB.	TELECOM	18	34,493	364	1.04
THER MFALLORD.	TELECOM	10	54,495	504	1.00
JUAINIA		1	3,568	100	2.80
NIRIDA -AREA-	TELECOM	1	3,406	100	2.94
THER MPAL.CAB.	TELECOM		132		0.00
UAVIARE		1	12,729	400	3.1
S.J. DEL GUAVIARE			College and Colleg		
AREA	TELECOM	1	11,164	400	3.5
THER MPAL.CAB	TELECOM		1,165		0.0
UAJIRA		9	255,310	4,760	1.86
RIOHACHA -AREA-	TELECOM	1	46,667	2,000	4.29
THER MPAL.CAB.	TELECOM	7	64,825	1,060	1.64
THER MPAL.CAB	OTHERS ,	1	46,033	1,700	3.69
IUILA		37	647,756	24,000	3.71
IEIVA -AREA-	TELEHUILA		205,234	20,100	9.79
THER MPAL. CAB.	TELECOM	34	154,657	1,900	1.23
THER MPAL. CAB.	OTHERS	1.1	19.685	2,000	10.16
AGDALENA		21	769.141	10,900	1.42
	E.T.S.M.	1	177,922	7,200	4.05
SANTA MARIA-AREA-	Lo Lo Do Fie				

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DEPARTMENT	OPERATOR 1	LOCATIONS	POPULATION	LINES	DENSITY
META	10 2.547.	24	412,312	12,050	
VILLAVICENCIO-AREA	TELECOM	1 1	161,166	10,100	2.92%
OTHER MPAL.CAB	TELECOM	23	101,566	1,950	6.27%
and promotion					
NARIÑO		56	1,019,098	13,750	1.35%
PASTO -AREA	E.T.N.	1	244,700	10,000	4.09%
OTHER MPAL.CAB.	TELECOM	54	216,737	1,750	0.81%
OTHER MPAL.CAB	OTHERS	1	45,419	2,000	4.40%
NODE DE CAMELADER					
NORTE DE SANTANDER CUCUTA -AREA	18 S	37	883,884	35,700	4.04%
OTHER MPAL.CAB.	TELECOM	. 2	375,311	22,000	5.86%
OTHER MPAL.CAB.	TELECOM	35	207,854	13,700	6.59%
PUTUMAYO					
MOCOA -AREA	TELECON	9	40,482	700	1.73%
OTHER MPAL.CAB.	TELECOM	1	7,714	300	3.89%
	TELECOM	8	32,768	400	1.22%
QUINDIO		1/400 Lane	MQ234		
ARMENIA	TELEARMENI	12	377,860	25,700	6.80%
OTHER MPAL.CAB.	TELECOM		180,221	17,000	9.43%
OTHER MPAL.CAB	OTHER	10	125,672	4.100	3.26%
Iolowes' by Lemsu	OTHER	1	37,679	4,600	12.21%
RISARALDA		The period			
PEREIRA -AREA-	E.P.P.	14	625,451	45,520	7.28%
OTHER MPAL.CAB.	TELECOM	2	326,829	40.500	12.39%
OTHER MPAL.CAB.	OTHERS	11	107,276	2.520	2.35%
		1	37,112	2.500	6.74%
SAN ANDRES Y PROVIDI	ENCIA	1	26 852		
SAN ANDRES -AREA-	TELECOM	1	26,852	3,200	11.92%
OTHER MPAL.CAB.	TELECOM	Bogots, 301	23,325 3,527	3,000	12,86%
			3,521	200	5.67%
SANTANDER		86	1.438.226	01 200	
BUCARAMANGA	E.P.B.	1	341,513	91.200	6.34%
OTHER MPAL.CAB.	TELECOM	85	528,119	71,000 20,200	20.79%
CULOR DE CALLER CALLER					
SUCRE		24	529,059	3,800	0.72%
SINCELEJO -AREA-	TELECOM	1	120,537	2,600	2.16%
OTHER MPAL.CAB.	TELECOM	23	165,199	1,200	0.73%
TOLIMA					
IBAGUE -AREA-	TELETOLIMA		1,022,458	33,840	3.13%
	THE REPORT OF A	1	269,495		
		and the second		22,000	8.16%
OTHER MPAL.CAB. OTHER MPAL.CAB.	TELECOM	44	296,657 37,563	9,440	8.16%

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DEPARTMENT	OPERATOR	LOCATIONS	POPULATI	ON LINES	DENSITY
VALLE	24 612,212	42	2,847,087	285,475	10.03%
CALI -AREA-	E.M.C.	3 00	1,388,622	233,200	16.79%
OTHER MPAL.CAB.		3500	970,023	17,275	1.78%
OTEHR MPAL.CAB	OTHERS	4	450,423	34,400	7.64%
13,750288521.353		24	. 584,631	10, 3208	See. MARI
VAUPES	MET BOOK	1	4,758	100	2.10%
MITU -AREA- OTHER MPAL.CAB.	TELECOM TELECOM		3,425	100	2.92%
VICHADA		2	3,712	200	5.39%
PTO. CARREÑO -A		2100	3,324	200	6.02%
OTHER MPAL.CAB	TELECOM		388	. SAD . LAMM M	0.00%
TOTAL		1,011 2	27,615,545	2,290,464	7.26%
			3.132 2 5 98 9.1546 1 5 5 5 8	ASIZ AND AND	
OTHER MPAL.CAB.					
SERVED BY TELEC	COM	330	in the		
OTHER MPAL.CAB.	NO CAPITALS				
NON-SERVED BY T	ELECOM	495			
			SHTO .		
				ANDRES -ARI	
					The All & All
ABL. OF ARTIN PARADA - ARD ARE. 327 RING OFFICE. CAR					

The process of modernization and liberalization of the Colombian economy has brought about a fast growth in the implementation and use of high technology and equipment.

The current computer population at the end of 1992 is estimated at 314.813 units of which 80% are microcomputers, 19% minicomputers and 1% main frames. Compared with the previous year while the number of main frames stayed at the same proportion, the minicomputers were increased by 349% and microcomputers by 132%.

Market share

Mainframes: Although IBM is still the leader by a scarce margin, Unisys and NCR have gained a substantial share in the past three years.

Minicomputers: The model IBM AS/400 became the most used, followed closely by Digital, Unisys, NCR and Wang.

Microcomputers: DTK has lost a significant share and now accounts for 15% followed by Samsung 14%, Apple 12%, Compaq 11%, IBM 10%, NCR 10%, Everex 9%, Goldstar 9% and others 10%. The peripherals which make up a standard configuration in the microcomputers, are hard disks of the following brands: Seagate 67%, Quantum 18%. Monochromatic monitors 65% shared by Samsung, Taiché, Goldstar and Wyse. The drives are 39% 3 ½" and 61% 5 ¼". The printer most used is Epson with 86%.

Market Distribution: The Colombian market for computing products and services is concentrated 47% in Santafé de Bogotá, 30% in Medellín and 12% in Cali.

Computer Use: The government sector is no longer the main user of computer equipment and accounts only for 24%, led now by personal and small business users with 31% and followed by the services sector 18%, industry 16% and commerce 11%.

Software: Despite the improvement reached in locally developed software, there are still excellent opportunities for foreign suppliers of specialized application software.

Multimedia: The introduction of multimedia technologies integrating communications and information systems, constitutes an excellent opportunity for companies specializing in this area.

Marketing strategies: A brand name is no longer a determining factor in a purchasing decision. Colombian potential buyers are increasingly more technically prepared, have greater knowledge and are better advised.

At present, the price of the product and the reliability of the supplier are of prime concern in the general purchasing behaviour.

The general demand for electronic data processing equipment and supplies has, thus, the following characteristics:

- a. High sensitivity towards the price.
- b. Medium sensitivity towards the reliability, stability and seriousness of the supplier.

c. Low consideration to product quality based only on brand name identification.

Microcompariturs: DTM has tost a significant share and now accounts for 15% followed by Samsung 14%, Acola 12%, Compaq 11%, IBM 10%, NCR 10%, Evena 9%, Goldstar 9% and careru 10%. The penpherals which make up a standard configuration in the microcomputare, are mard disks of the following brands: Seagate 37%, Quantum 18%, Monochromatic monitors 85% shared by Samsung, Talché, Goldstar and Wure. The drives are 39% 3 % and 61% 6 %. The prints most used is Epson with 85%.

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Sonwara: Despite the improvement reached in ocally developed software, there are all excellent opportunities for foreign supplication of specialized application software.

KEY PLAYERS

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

The ministry establishes overall policies for planning developments and control of Colombian telecommunications. It is currently under a reorganization process looking to adapt its structure to the new reality of sectoral modernization and privatization.

NATIONAL FUND FOR DEVELOPING PROJECTS - FONADE

This government institution, responsible to the National Planning Department -DNP, promotes and finances research and studies for projects of national interest. International and national companies interested in contracting consulting services with state entities must register with FONADE to be eligible.

NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY - TELECOM

TELECOM holds a monopoly over long-distance telephone service within Colombia and with the rest of the world, which provides 53% of its revenues. Thanks to these revenues it has consistently been profitable, and must transfer portions of its surplus to the central government. With 15,000 employees it is the largest employer in Colombia.

Associated companies and percentage of TELECOM ownership:

Telecartagena	60%
Telehuila	86%
Telenariño	81%
Teletolima	70%
Teletuluá	55%
Telearmenia	70%
Telesantamarta	70%
Telecalarcá	82%

INSTITUTO TECNOLOGICO DE ELECTRONICA Y COMUNICACIONES - ITEC

ITEC is a training institute established by and reporting to TELECOM. It signed a five-year, US\$ 2.5 million agreement with the United Nations Development Program in 1987 to provide training and laboratory equipment.

EMPRESA DE TELECOMUNICACIONES DE SANTAFE DE BOGOTA - ETB

ETB is the municipal telecommunications utility servicing approximately one million telephone lines in Santafé de Bogotá and surrounding municipalities and reporting to the city government. Although the company is heavily indebted its plans include installing close to 100,000 lines per year in addition to upgrading of existing technical infrastructure.

EMPRESAS PUBLICAS DE MEDELLIN - EPM

EPM was created by the city of Medellín with approval of the national government in 1955 to administer the city's electricity, water, sewerage and telephone services. Each of these is looked after by an autonomous branch within the company. The telephone division operates over 500,000 lines.

EMPRESAS DEPARTAMENTALES DE ANTIOQUIA - EDA

Telephone service in the Department of Antioquia originated with a regional railway company, which developed the service as an offshoot of its telegraph network. EDA was created in 1969 to assume these and other responsibilities, and currently operates nearly 50,000 lines. It established the first cellular telecommunication network in Antioquia in September 1984.

EMPRESAS MUNICIPALES DE CALI - EMCALI

Emcali is an integrated municipal utility serving Cali, Yumbo and Jamundí. Its telephone division services close to 300,000 lines.

SOCIEDAD COLOMBIANA DE TELEFONIA CELULAR S. A. - CELULAR S. A.

A mixed public-private consortium integrated by Empresa Nacional de Telecomunicaciones - TELECOM, Empresa de Telecomunicaciones de Santafé de Bogotá - ETB, a small number or regional telephone companies and BCE Telecom International Inc. It will be one of the cellular telephone operators serving Santafé de Bogotá and the western area of the country.

ITEC is a training institute established by and reporting to TELECOM. It signed five-year, US\$ 2.5 million agreement with the United Nations Development Program in 1987 to provide training and laboratory equipment.

AGUSTIN CODAZZI GEOGRAPHIC INSTITUTE - IGAC

The IGAC is responsible for all Colombian mapping and cadastral matters as well as related scientific investigation and training and reports to the Ministry of Finance.

INRAVISION

Inravision is the National Radio and Television Institute created in 1954 and which currently operates three TV channels (two general and one public interest). INRAVISION auctions airtime to private sector production companies, which recoup their investment in programming by selling advertising space.

REGIONAL TELEVISION STATIONS

The Government of President Betancur (1982-1986) took the decision to licence entrepreneurs to establish and operate regional television facilities.

TELEANTIOQUIA is the first of the regional television stations to be authorized and began operations in 1987.

TELECARIBE serves the region of the Northern Coast of Colombia.

TELEPACIFICO serves the city of Cali and its area of influence.

TELECAFE was approved in 1989 for the coffee-growing Departments of Caldas, Quindío and Risaralda.

COLCIENCIAS

COLCIENCIAS, officially known as the Colombian Fund for Scientific Research and Special Projects, is a government organization reporting to the Ministry of Education. It seeks to promote and stimulate the creation of new technologies and their application in Colombia.

NATIONAL STATISTICS ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT - DANE

DANE maintains the National Register of Informatics Goods and Services Suppliers and, in theory, must be consulted by all national government agencies prior to the acquisition of computer equipment.

DEPARTAMENTO ADMINISTRATIVO DE AERONAUTICA CIVIL - DAAC

The DAAC regulates all aspects of civil aviation including planning and installation of communication services and serial navigation aids in Colombian airports. Like TELECOM, it also has a specialized training division, in this case known as the Centre for Aeronautical Studies, which has purchased Canadian laboratory training equipment.

Intervision is the National Pilde and Television Numeral and one public interest ourrently operates three TV channels (two ganeral and one public interest) and the shrinkler associate setting of Sitter associate setting and one public interest) are reacting the investment of programming by calify advertising advertising advertising at gracence and notify for the business of posting as which as associate to note and the setting of the setting of the setting of the setting advertising advection of the setting and note and notes and business and the setting advection of the setting of the setting of the set of the setting of the se

REGIONAL TELEVISION STATIONS

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TELEPROIFICO serves the day of Gali and its area of initiance.

TELECAPE was approved in 1989 for the conee-proving Departments of Caldas, att Infollingio Bio/Riseitade Onema view longinum balaneete na a lacens send 000.005 or each sector activities notable anone set

NATIONAL STATISTICS ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT - DANE

DANE maintains the National Register of Informatics Goods and Services Supplians and, in theory, must be consulted by all national government agencies phor to the acquistion of converter equipment.

ASSOCIATIONS

On occasion it may prove useful to contact associations, whether it be for insights into the state of a particular sector of Colombian industry, for assistance to locate potential clients and agents, or for referrals to qualified Colombian technicians.

ASSOCIATION OF COLOMBIAN COMPUTER USERS - ACUC

Created in 1970 to stimulate and defend the interest of computer users, it currently has a membership of over 300 companies. It belongs to the Latin-American Informatics Federation.

ASSOCIATION OF COLOMBIAN SYSTEM ENGINEERS - ACIS

Founded in 1976, ACIS currently has a membership of close to 1,000 and serves as a channel for professional and technological upgrading for its members. ACIS is also involved in the organization of the annual Colombian computer fair -COMPUEXPO and an annual academic meeting, the "Salón de Informática".

ASSOCIATION OF ELECTRICAL, MECHANICAL AND ELECTRONIC ENGINEERS - ACIEM

This is an important professional organization created to stimulate the local industry and provide services to its members.

ASSOCIATION OF ELECTRONIC SECTOR ENTITIES - ASESEL

ASESEL is a recently-formed organization of Colombian manufacturers and representatives of foreign suppliers of electronic equipment and services.

COLOMBIAN INFORMATICS ASSOCIATION - ACCIO

ACCIO is a relatively recent organization constituted to generate new uses for informatics and related technologies in Colombia.

PROJECTS AND OTHER EXPORT OPPORTUNITIES

TELECOMMUNICATIONS GROSS CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAM 1992 - 1995

Service

US\$ Millions

151.50

23.49

700.00

2,429.36 Basic telephone lines - programmed Basic telephone lines - objective 6.637.60 Long distance - national Long distance - international Cellular telephony 9.941.95 TOTAL

Source: National Planning Department - DNP

CELLULAR TELEPHONY PROJECT

A multimillion dollar project with national coverage will shortly introduce the cellular telephony service in Colombia.

A recent regulatory law, Law 37 of January 6, 1993 and Decree No. 741 of April 20, 1993 establish that the cellular telephony service will be performed by two competing operators in three different areas in which the country was divided for this purpose.

The eastern area based in Santafé de Bogotá and Bucaramanga will serve these two cities and their region of influence, the western area located in Medellin and Cali and their neighbouring departments (provinces) and municipalities, including those of the coffee growing centres, the area of the northern coast, conformed by the centres of Barranquilla, Cartagena and Santa Marta and the municipalities and locations under their influence .

As stated previously, the regulatory law anticipates that for each area there will be two competing operators, one a public or mixed utility and one a private concern duly qualified.

There is already one mixed utility conformed for each region which practically have assured the right to establish the public network system. Eight private concerns conformed by world suppliers of technology and by local financial organizations, will compete in the pregualification and bidding process for a private network system. A time table set by colombian authorities foresees that the bidding process will be opened in August 1993 among prequalified contenders and the contract will be granted by the end of the year so that the service can be introduced by mid 1994.

URBAN TELEPHONE EXPANSION

Ongoing programs in all major cities foresee the installation of close to 600,000 lines in 1994 which will demand an investment of US\$554.8 million dollars which will be financed partially by public utilities and the remainder by private investors. This plan will increase the installed capacity to 3.5 million telephone lines to reach a density of 11.3 telephone sets for every one hundred people.

TELECOM - NORTHERN TELECOM CONCESSION PROJECT

The state communications company - TELECOM and Northern Telecom have signed a joint venture agreement to install and operate close to 206,000 lines at an investment cost of US\$ 160 million dollars in the Colombian Departments (Provinces) of Boyaca, Cauca, Cesar, Guajira, Nariño, Santander, San Andres and Valle. Northern Telecom expects to recover its investment and make a profit in 10 year period through a revenue sharing plan with Telecom following which, ownership of the installed equipment will revert to Telecom.

SPECTRUM MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING PROJECT

The Ministry of Communications modernization program includes a project to reorganize the electromagnetic spectrum. The project, at a cost of US\$13 million dollars will include a preliminary analysis concerning national topographic digitalization, frequencies planning and control, digitalization of existing data, supplying of monitoring equipment, training and commissioning of the management model.

INRAVISION CHANNEL THREE EXPANSION PROJECT

Inravision, the national organization responsible for television in Colombia is currently planning to upgrade and expand the services of CHANNEL THREE which require an estimated investment of US\$20 million dollars in restructuring the current infrastructure and supplying VHF and UHF television transmitters. A strong competitor in this project is the French company Thompson who has offered concessional financing.

RURAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM

Telecom is currently implementing a rural telecommunications program to introduce a digital multiplex radio service in close to 4.000 isolated locations of the national territory; this project initiated in 1989 will span until 1995 demanding a total investment of US\$400 million dollars and will serve over 6 million users.

Other projects by independent communications network operators (i.e. the Army, the police, the state oil company - ECOPETROL and foreign oil operators) will offer excellent opportunities to suppliers of related equipment and technology and, we very much encourage Canadian manufacturers and suppliers interested in offering their products and services in this market to keep in communication with the trade section of our Embassy for market intelligence and advice.

en investment cost of US\$ 160 million dotset in the Colombian Department en investment cost of US\$ 160 million dotset in the Colombian Department (Provinces) of Boyace Cauca Caser, Guaine Nacho, Santander, San Andres e year period through a revenue sharing plan with TeleCon Colombia year period through a revenue sharing plan with TeleCon Colombia year period through a revenue sharing plan with TeleCon Colombia year period through a revenue sharing the wat teleCon Colombia year to Parcenter of the Installed equipment will revent to TeleCon and year period through a revenue sharing that with TeleCon telecon and to Parcenter of the Installed equipment will revent to Telecon and the Demotred of the Installed equipment will revent to Telecon and the Demotred of the Installed equipment will revent to Telecon and the Demotred of the Installed equipment will revent to Telecon and the Demotred of the Installed equipment will revent to Telecon and the Demotred of the Installed equipment will revent to Telecon and to Demotred of the Installed equipment will revent to Telecon and to Demotred of the Installed equipment will revent to Telecon and to Debug be the television in the Santan Santan and the Debug be the television in the Santan Santan Santan

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Intervision, the national organization responsible for television in theoretics is and a sector of the boost of the sector of the boost of the sector of the boost of the sector of the boost of the sector of the boost of the sector of the se

PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES

COMPUEXPO

Is a computer/informatics technology fair and exhibition organized annually (usually in October) in Santafé de Bogotá, by the Fairs and Exhibitions Corporation- CORFERIAS with the support of computer technology organizations.

TELEXPO

The process of liberalization and modernization of the Colombian communications infrastructure initiated under the current administration, was the origin of this fair and exhibition, organized along with COMPUEXPO by the Fairs and Exhibitions Corporation - CORFERIAS and the active participation of the national, regional and municipal communications utilities and leading world equipment manufacturers and suppliers.

THE NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS CONGRESS

A TELEXPO concurrent technical symposium which usually features themes of relevant interest in technology and business opportunities with the participation of national and international organizations and qualified speakers.

HOW TO DO BUSINESS IN COLOMBIA

STEP A: EXPLORING THE MARKET

Canadian telecommunications goods and services enjoy a favourable reputation as Colombian professionals become more familiar with Canadian technologies and visit Canadian facilities. Other advanced technology products and services are not as well-known.

First-hand marketing trips to uncover and evaluate sales opportunities in Colombia are indispensable. A wide variety of personal contacts are of prime importance in this sector and can only be established after several visits. It is important to touch base regularly with your contacts as many smaller projects (particularly studies) may not be widely advertised before going to tender.

STEP B: CHOOSING A RELIABLE LOCAL AGENT

Foreign companies are required to have a legal representative or local agent, whose name, address and telephone number must be stated when registering (see below) with each parastatal.

The Commercial Division of the Canadian Embassy in Bogota maintains regular contact with a variety of agents in this sector and may be able to suggest candidates. A preliminary list of potential agents is provided at the end of this report.

STEP C: REGISTRATION WITH STATE ENTITIES

In accordance with Colombian Law (Decree 222 of 1983), any firm interested in supplying equipment and/or services to state entities must be registered in the appropriate supplier and/or contractor index. Normally only registered companies will receive specifications and invitations to bid. Companies interested in offering consulting services must be registered with FONADE.

Companies that decide to register should note the following:

The registration form should be fully completed and the financial information requested must be stated in Colombian pesos.

The balance sheet must be signed by a certified public accountant and his signature attested by a public notary.

The legal documents requested for registration such as a Canadian Chamber of Commerce Certificate must be accompanied by a Spanish translation and certified by a Colombian Consul in Canada, by the Colombian Ministry of External Affairs in Bogota, and by the Colombian agent or legal representative of the Canadian company.

Bona fide certificates from existing customers are required.

A company interested in registering as a contractor must furnish a complete profile of the firm including professional and technical staff (engineers and technicians) with proof of their degrees and professional skills.

Each registration is valid only for a two-year term and subsequently must be renewed.

STEP D: FOLLOW-UP AND PERSISTENCE

The Colombian telecommunications and advanced technology market cannot be penetrated overnight. Competitors from Japan, France, Italy, Sweden, Spain, West Germany and the United States are deeply entrenched and difficult to displace. Patience and a long-term commitment to this market are essential prerequisites for success.

Your agent should receive appropriate support to promote your products or services on your behalf. It is not unusual for a first sale to come only after several years of sustained promotion and repeated visits to potential clients. Inform yourself about financing support available from the Export Development Corporation.

Your should also keep government contacts (including the Canadian Embassy Commercial Division, the local International Trade Centre, and provincial government trade development officers) informed of your interests and sales strategy so they can support you to the maximum with sectoral intelligence and by inviting your firm to participate in marketing programs such as missions, incoming visits, etc.

All avenues to enter the market should be explored. These include joint ventures and technology transfer agreements, for which you may be eligible for support from the Canadian International Development Agency Industrial Cooperation Program.

ANNEX A: SECTORAL CONTACTS

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Telephone

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Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

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Carlos R. Camacho

Lucio Muñoz

Pierre Brosseau

César Torrente

287-0766

SOCIEDAD COLOMBIANA DE TELEFONIA CELULAR S. A. - CELULAR S. A. Street Address Carrera 7^s Nº 37-25, Oficina 401

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President Executive Director VP Administrative and Finance VP Technical

EMPRESAS PUBLICAS DE MEDELLIN Street Address

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Director Technical and Operations Manager

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ANNEX B: POTENTIAL REPRESENTATIVES

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Germán Jaramillo

COMPAÑIA COMERCIAL CURACAO DE COLOMBIA S. A. Street Address Carrera 13A Nº 93-

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GONTELCOM LTDA. Street Address

Telephone Telefax

Manager

RADIAR COMUNICACIONES LTDA. Street Address

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Antonio Pizarro

MULTITEL GTE DE LA SABANA LTDA. Street Address

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Manager

PLESCOM LTDA. Street Address

Telephone Telefax

Manager

PROYCO S. A. Street Address

Telephone Telefax

Communications Manager

SOLANDINA S. A. Street Address

Telephone Telefax

Manager

RADIOTEC LTDA. Street Address

Telephone Telefax

Manager

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Manager

REY MORENO Y CIA. Street Address

Telephones Telefax

Manager

SINGER PRODUCTS INC. CIA. LTDA. Street Address

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Technical Manager

SISTECOM LTDA. Street Address

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Manager

NOVACOM Street Address

Telephone Telefax

Manager

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Hernando Barreto

Castle Contained and the

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ANNEX C: POTENTIAL REPRESENTATIVES

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Cantalis de Brookenuisiane

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General Manager

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Gustavo Toledo

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