

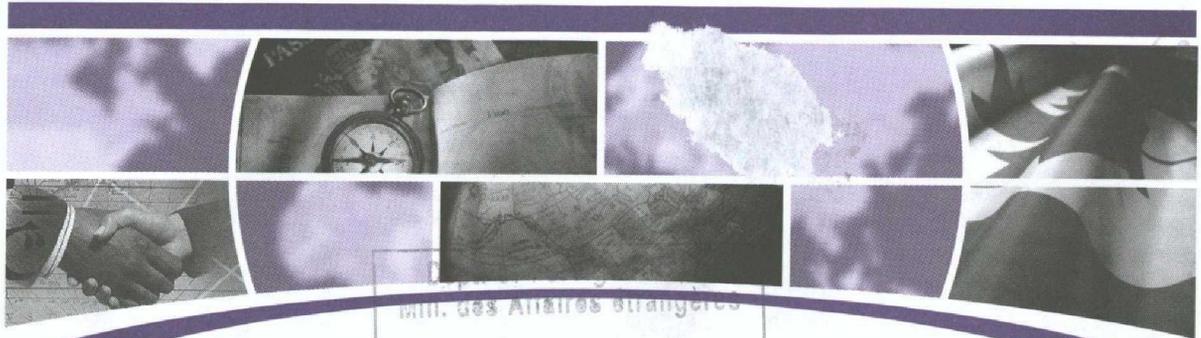
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Department of Foreign Affairs
and International Trade

Ministère des Affaires étrangères
et du Commerce international

Canada

CanadaExport



Exporter confidence inches forward, restrained by rising dollar

Exporter confidence rose slightly during the last six months, but many remain cautious about sales growth this year, according to the latest survey by Export Development Canada (EDC).

"We've been forecasting that 2004 would be a year of synchronized growth for the global economy," says EDC Vice-President and Chief Economist Stephen Poloz. "Exporter sentiment is more bullish than six months ago because of positive economic news, but the survey also shows Canadians are concerned about the potential implications of a rising dollar on their sales volumes."

EDC's Trade Confidence Index (TCI) is based on a random sample of 1000 Canadian companies, representing a cross-section of industry, regions and size of business. The latest reading is 74.8 out of a possible 100 points, an increase of 1.5 points from the 73.3 registered in the spring of 2003. It is a composite score based on five questions asked twice a year.



While confidence in the domestic and global economies rose, this improvement has not so far translated into expectations of stronger export sales, which remain about the same as six months ago. Overwhelmingly, exporters cited concern over the rising Canadian dollar as one of the primary reasons for their caution.

continued on page 6 — Rising dollar

Vol. 22, No. 3
February 16, 2004

Saskatoon, Dubai IT companies team up

One of Dubai's most creative Web development firms has found the hosting solution they were looking for in a Saskatoon company. After almost two years of negotiations, FalconSearch.com has agreed to trust their hosting needs to **Amanah Tech Inc.** A formal signing ceremony was held on the sidelines of **GITEX 2003 Dubai**, the largest technology trade show in the Arabian Gulf.

According to Iqbal Butt, FalconSearch.com CEO, "We have chosen Amanah Tech Inc. as a result of an exhaustive search of suitable hosting firms, after having both technical support and customer service issues with our current provider. We are absolutely confident that Amanah will provide the service and support that our clients deserve. Our company finds having customer service and technical support in

continued on page 4 — IT companies

Supplement:
Central Europe
Readier than Ever
(see insert)

North Africa rich in trade and investment opportunities

The rain and cool temperatures did little to dampen the reception that members of a Canadian trade delegation received when their plane touched down in the Maghreb last December. The mission, which saw stopovers in Algeria, Tunisia and Libya, was organized by the Canada Arab Business Council (CABC) in response to requests from some of its members who felt the time was right for such a visit. The CABC has been promoting Canada's commercial interests in the Middle East and North Africa for 20 years.

Canada has seen consistent growth in business opportunities over the last few years in North Africa. Last year, Canada exported about \$560 million to the three countries that were included in the mission.



The Canadian delegation in Tripoli with Jacques Simard, Canadian Ambassador to Libya (standing, first from left).

Hugh O'Donnell, Executive Vice-President, Canadian Commercial Corporation (CCC), Dwain Lingenfelter, CABC Chairman and CEO, and Sandra LeBlanc, CABC Vice-Chair, led the delegation. They were joined by senior executives from some 20 Canadian companies that represented several key sectors, including oil and gas, agriculture and agri-food, information and communication technologies, as well as training and education.

"The Maghreb presents a lot of interesting trade and investment opportunities for Canadian business," said O'Donnell. "There's great respect in the region for what Canadian companies have to offer." The sentiment was echoed by the CABC's Lingenfelter: "There is a desire in the region to do business with Canadians because we are seen to be good at the things that they need. As a result, we came home with many more opportunities for Canadian companies than anticipated."

The opportunities that were identified for Canadian companies were particularly rich as they relate to infrastructure requirements specific

to oil and gas, including pipeline technology and information technology systems, and overall infrastructure improvements in healthcare and transportation.

Both O'Donnell and Lingenfelter credit the advance work that was undertaken by staff at the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters, but especially the local embassies and chambers of commerce, as a major contributing factor to the success of the mission.

The agenda included opportunities for the Canadian delegation to network with local business leaders and government officials, and participate in round-table discussions and individual appointments with potential business partners. The participants were invited to meetings like the Conference of Arab Investors in Algiers, the Journée de l'Entreprise at Sousse in Tunisia and the Libyan Foreign Investment Board "Marketplace."

With this Maghreb mission a success, the CABC is considering a mission to the Middle East this spring. **For more information**, contact Michel Fairfield, CCC, tel.: **(613) 947-9662.** *

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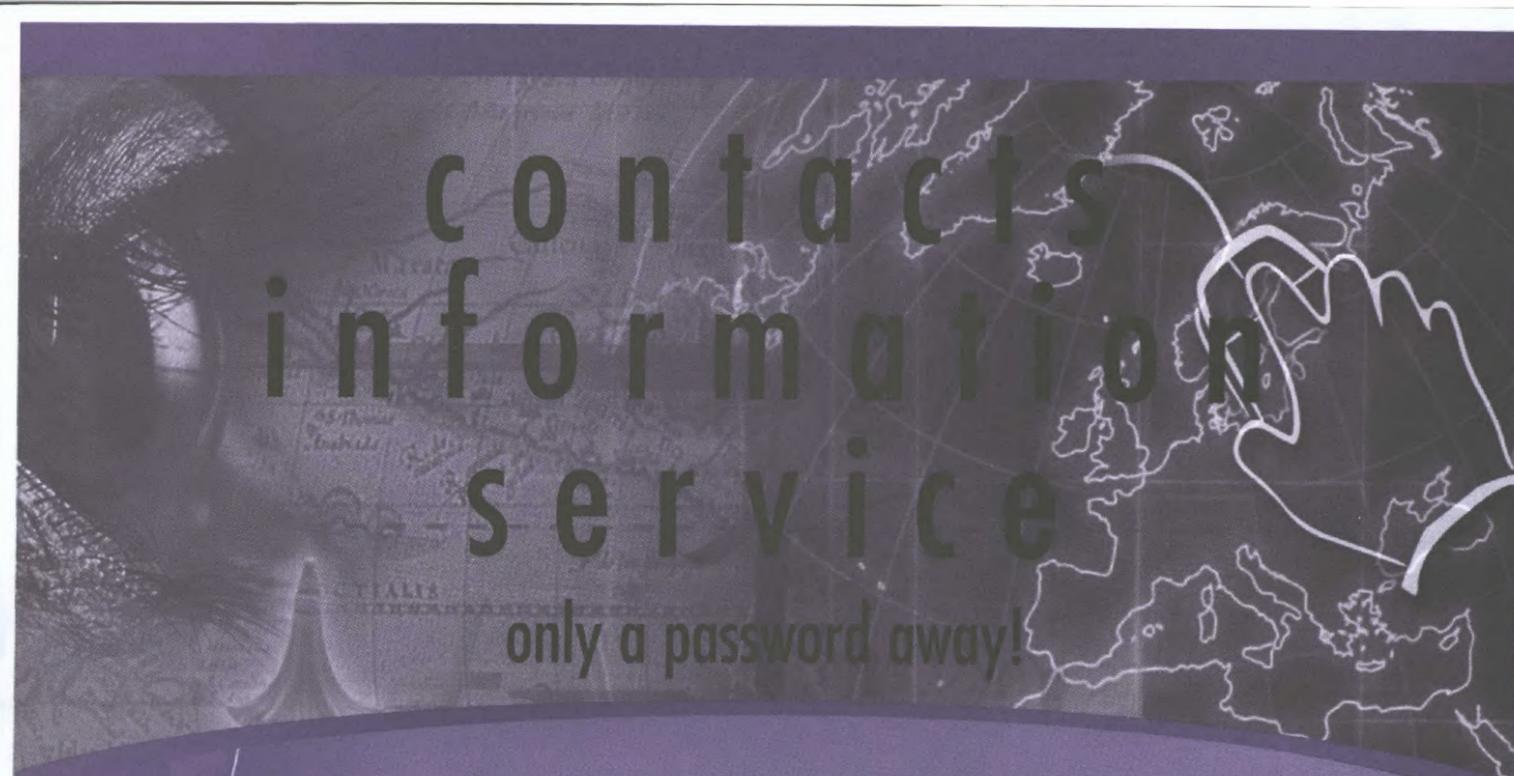
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Canada hosts two key Turkish business events

Turkey is a vibrant country strategically located close to Europe, Central Asia and the Middle East, has a dynamic population and many natural and technological resources. Attend the following two events and learn about doing business in this thriving region.

Mining networking session

TORONTO — March 9, 2004 — The Canadian-Turkish Business Council (CTBC), the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and Export Development Canada invite Canadian exporters to a breakfast networking session on investment and trade opportunities in the mining sector in Turkey at the Fairmont Royal

York Hotel. Dr. Guven Onal, Chairman of the Turkish Mining Development Foundation, and representatives of the mining sector in Turkey look forward to meeting with interested Canadian firms. This networking session is taking place concurrently with the Prospector's and Developer's Association of Canada's **Exploration Conference 2004**, held from March 7 to 10, 2004, in Toronto.

Conference to highlight trade and investment

TORONTO — April 8, 2004 — The CTBC and its Turkish partner DEIK (Turkish Foreign Economic Relations Board) are holding a joint annual

conference themed "Invest for Access." By attending this conference, Canadian exporters can explore and learn about how to access new business in this key market. Canada-Turkey trade has nearly tripled in the last decade and could reach the \$1 billion level in a few years. Strong links and partnerships have been established between Turkish companies and Canadian exporters, especially in sectors like energy, mining, aerospace, health, information technology, construction and environment.

For more information on both events and to reserve your spot, contact the CTBC, tel.: (905) 568-8300, ext. 288, e-mail: info@ctbc.ca. Web site: www.ctbc.ca.



IT companies — continued from page 1

Arabic, as well as English, extremely helpful; that is, in addition to the incredible care we have received during our trial period." FalconSearch.com is a leading Internet and new media solutions provider specializing in the comprehensive e-integration of business and technology.

This new agreement confirms that Amanah Tech will provide all Web hosting and technical support for FalconSearch.com and, in turn, FalconSearch.com will include the value-added service to its portfolio.

Nezar Freeny, Amanah Tech CEO, said, "We are very proud to include FalconSearch.com in our portfolio of clients. They have lived up to their reputation over the past two years of negotiations of being a progressive, forward-thinking firm. They have taken great care in selecting a hosting firm



At the signing ceremony, from left: Nezar Freeny, President of Amanah; David Hutton, Canadian Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates; Anne Argyris, Consul and Senior Trade Commissioner, Canadian Consulate in Dubai; and Iqbal Butt, President of FalconSearch.com.

with which they can grow and expand their business and its services, and we are thrilled to be that partner."

Consulate lends a hand

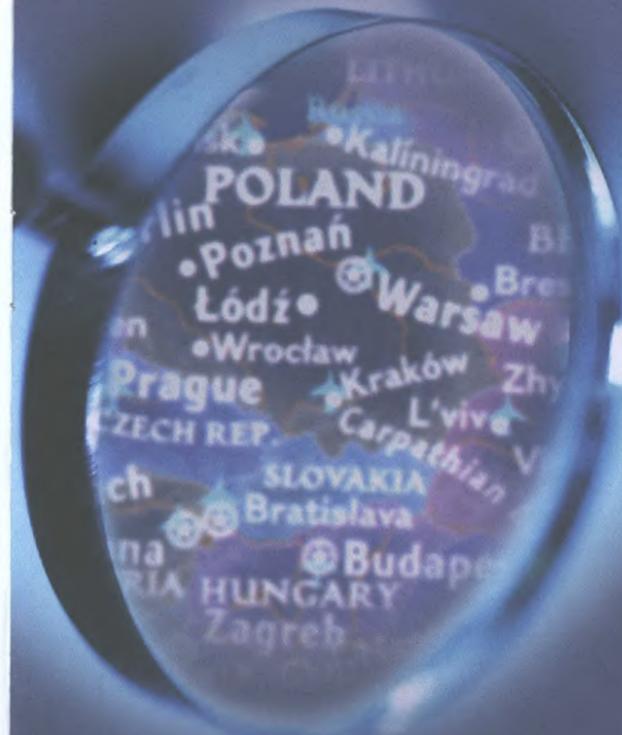
The Canadian Consulate in Dubai has played a very positive role in

Amanah's success over the past two years and in the signing of this latest contract. "We have been pleased to provide assistance to Amanah Tech," said Anne Argyris, Consul and Senior Trade Commissioner. "Nezar Freeny, Amanah's president, is an important success story for Canada-Dubai business. He is a young entrepreneur who is very aggressive—not afraid of pursuing opportunities in a market that some Canadian companies might not be aware of. The Consulate provided him with market information and introduced him to contacts in the region. Amanah's success is encouraging and will also lead other Canadian companies to look at opportunities in Dubai."

For more information, contact Amanah Tech Inc., tel.: (306) 933-9825, ext. 221, e-mail: bree@amanah.com, Web site: www.amanah.com.



February 2004



Central Europe Readier than Ever

A dynamic market of 65 million people.
A favourite destination for Canadian investment.
And a new force within the European Union.

For the last 10 years, Central Europe has enjoyed some of the highest growth rates in the world. Improvements in the business environment have been dramatic since the emergence of market economies. And May 2004—when these countries enter the EU—is fast approaching. Privatization, as well as legal, fiscal, business and monetary reform, are all helping achieve alignment with EU law—a big plus for Canadian exporters and investors. 2004 is shaping up to be the first year of synchronized global growth since 1996. Export Development Canada predicts that Europe's growth will be concentrated in Central Europe, which should benefit from strong investment funding from the EU and other sources.

There are opportunities for Canadian businesses in automotive parts (taking advantage of the region's competitive manufacturing cost structure); information technology; construction technologies; environmental services and industries; urban transit (the EU is expected to invest massively in infrastructure); and the consumer sector (agri-food, services), which is booming with the growth in household incomes. Commitments to open government procurement may be limited, so Canadian companies should associate with local companies to benefit from their expertise in penetrating peripheral markets.

Central Europe offers attractive opportunities for businesses large and small. For more information, particularly on sectors not mentioned here, visit the site of the Canadian Trade Commissioner Service (www.infoexport.gc.ca) or contact one of the trade commissioners (see p. 4).

With a population of nearly 40 million, an expanding economy, a growing consumer base, a strategic location and its coming EU accession, Poland offers numerous opportunities for Canadian companies. Annual real GDP growth is likely to accelerate to 3.3% in 2003 and 4.8% in 2004 (from 1.4% in 2002). According to consulting firm A.T. Kearney, Poland is the fourth best country in the world in which to invest (after China, the United States and Mexico).

Canadian exports to Poland surged 30% from January to October 2003 and included goods and services in telecommunications, aerospace and pharmaceuticals. Current cumulative Canadian investment in Poland is about C\$350 million, spanning telecommunications, aerospace, transportation, agri-food, construction, energy and environmental industries.

Priority Sectors

Transportation: Opportunities range from infrastructure—road and highway development and construction, railway infrastructure, metro and light-rail transit systems—to privatization and restructuring of the national railway company (Poland's largest employer) to logistics, new rolling stock, natural gas engines for municipal transportation and more. The



European Commission has suggested that as much as one third of the EU's nearly C\$20 billion structural and cohesion funding should be spent on Poland's transportation infrastructure in the next three years. Key events: Canadian CNG Technologies Seminar,

Krakow, February 10, 2004; Canada Trade Day, Lodz, March 11 2004 (focus on transportation); Autostrada-Polska, Kielce, May 2004; Kolej – Interrail, June 2004.

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Electrical Power Equipment: Power generation in Poland has entered a period of transformation and restructuring, including the privatization of power generators and distributors, as well as radical changes in generation capacities. The sector must meet strict EU environmental requirements by 2008. This means replacing 60% of the 33,500 MW of installed capacity by 2010, much of which will be based on natural gas or clean coal-burning technologies. Estimates place investments required in the energy sector over the next six years at more than C\$46 billion. This will be accompanied by the upgrade and repair of high-voltage transmission lines both in Poland itself and beyond. Key event: Energetab 2004, Bielsko-Biala, September 14-16.

CONTACT: arkadiusz.wysocki@dfait-maeci.gc.ca

Environmental Industries: Commitments to meet EU standards translate into investments of C\$48-\$64 billion in this sector by 2015. The main investment flows will go into water and wastewater management, including construction, extension and

Export Development Canada has responded to the new business dynamic in the region by opening a regional office in Warsaw and actively seeking projects to support. EDC is a commercially oriented corporation owned by the Canadian government. It has provided a unique range of services (including financing, bonding, insurance and equity financing) to Canadian exporters and investors overseas for 60 years. In 2002, EDC served over 7,200 clients, facilitating more than C\$51 billion in exports and investments. EDC can support a wide range of central European buyers and borrowers, including commercial companies, central governments, regional/ municipal governments and banks, interested in purchasing goods and services from Canada.

For more information, contact either Dennis Goresky, Regional Manager for Central Europe in Warsaw, tel (011) 48-22-584-3240, fax (011) 48-22-584-3277, e-mail dgoresky@edc.ca or Lorne Cutler, Regional Manager for Central Europe in Ottawa, tel 613 598-2745, fax 613 598-2503, e-mail lcutler@edc.ca

modernization of wastewater treatment plants; water supply systems; and sewage systems. There are also opportunities in waste management, including sorting and recycling municipal and industrial (including hazardous) waste and modernizing and building municipal landfills; soil reclamation; air pollution reduction; modernization of power and heat generating plants and heavy industry plants; and encouraging broader use of alternative sources of energy. Key events: Wod-Kan (Water Supply and Sewage), Bydgoszcz, May 2004; WATER 2004, Poznan, September; Poleko 2004, Poznan, November.

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Information and Communication Technologies: This has been one of the most dynamic areas of the Polish economy. In 2002, the IT market was worth C\$4 billion (up 8% over the last year) and the telecommunication market was C\$12 billion. Poland's obligations to NATO and the EU have stimulated part of this growth. The country had to adjust standards, create or upgrade public systems and procedures, and prepare to face stiff EU competition—hence the many large public ICT projects and private sector tenders. Projects planned for the coming years include systems for police, border security and monitoring, taxes and duties, a real estate register and e-government. Key events: Intertelecom, Lodz, March 2-4, 2004; Komputer Expo, Warsaw, January 2005.

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HUNGARY

Hungary's trade and investment are heavily integrated with existing EU members. Located at the crossroads of Europe, Hungarian companies have traditionally been conduits to the growing markets of southeastern and eastern Europe, and Budapest has emerged as one of the leading business centres of the region.

EU accession will produce many challenges but is also expected to bring new foreign investment. As one of the first countries in the region to launch ambitious reforms (through privatization), Hungary was an early investment target for Canadian firms. With cumulative totals of over C\$1 billion, it is the largest destination

for Canadian investment in Central Europe. Hungary is now interested in attracting investment to its lower-cost, higher-productivity sectors such as manufacturing (automotive parts), biotechnology, and R&D facilities.

EU membership will also require Hungary to comply with standards in a number of sectors. The upgrades, eligible for structural funding, will provide attractive opportunities for Canadian companies. Sectors such as energy are undergoing reorganization to retain their competitiveness. Consumer spending is increasing due to a growing middle class. Job creation is at record levels, and GDP growth is expected to exceed 3% in 2004. Canadian companies have responded, with exports to Hungary increasing 40% in the first 10 months of 2003.

Priority Sectors

Environment: Hungary requires investment in wastewater and landfill systems to comply with EU requirements. Authorities are also committed to promoting alternative energy sources (wind, geothermal, biomass) and energy efficiency. Hungary offers high-quality research resources as well. Buyers from the region will attend Globe 2004 in Vancouver in March.



CONTACT: ernest.kiss@dfait-maeci.gc.ca

Information and Communication Technologies: Hungary has achieved fairly high saturation for mobile telephone and Internet use, but areas such as broadband deployment, provision of e-government and e-business services, the privatization of postal and logistics services, and specialized products (command and control, secure transmission, industrial process communication) offer good prospects for medium-sized and larger Canadian enterprises. Hungarian buyers will participate in CeBIT in Hannover in March.

CONTACT: eva.bosze@dfait-maeci.gc.ca

Construction Technology: Much of Hungary's housing needs replacement, creating demand for innovative building technologies. With the development of commercial financing, Hungarian homebuyers have access to better financing options. Lower-cost and efficient housing technologies developed in

One way of reducing investment risk in Central Europe is to involve the **European Bank for Reconstruction and Development** in your projects. The EBRD was established in 1991 to help build market economies and democracies in 27 countries from Central Europe to Central Asia. The largest single investor in the region, it mainly invests in private enterprises, usually with commercial partners. It provides project financing for banks, industries and businesses, for both new ventures and existing companies. It also works with publicly owned companies to support privatization, restructuring of state-owned firms and improvement of municipal services. The EBRD uses its close relationship with governments in the region to promote policies that will bolster the business environment. For more information on investment and tender opportunities, contact Sandy Ferguson, Advisor to the Executive Director for Canada and Morocco, tel (011-44-207) 338-6509, e-mail FergusoS@ebrd.com (Web site: www.ebrd.com)

Regional Opportunities for Clean Energy Investments. In 2002, a Regional Climate Change Office opened at the Canadian Embassy in Warsaw to promote clean energy technologies (renewables and energy efficiency) across various sectors—industrial, residential and commercial—in the region. This means finding opportunities to use Canadian technologies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Funding for clean energy projects is available through the Canadian International Initiative for Technology Transfer (CIITT) for feasibility studies, and through Technology Early Action Measures (TEAM) for demonstration projects. Information about these funding mechanisms and about Canada's innovative clean energy companies can be found at www.cleanenergy.gc.ca. Contact in Warsaw: ramona.baksh@dfait-maeci.gc.ca

Canada could be successful. The Embassy invites Canadian companies to Construma, a major Hungarian show in April.

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Transportation/Auto Parts: Hungary plays a key role in auto parts, serving the growing number of original equipment manufacturers in the region. Canadian parts suppliers already have facilities in the country. At the same time, Hungary is overhauling its rail network and upgrading its highway system to EU standards.

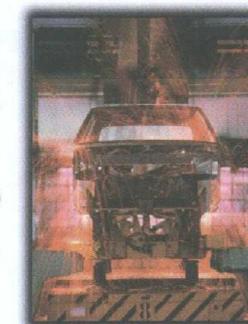
CONTACT: eva.bosze@dfait-maeci.gc.ca


SLOVENIA

The Canadian Embassy in Budapest is also responsible for trade development in Slovenia, Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. Slovenia will be an EU member in 2004, and Canadian exports there have also been on the rise, up 42% from January to October 2003. Opportunities in this small but dynamic market include aerospace, industrial equipment, and services.


CZECH REPUBLIC

Over the past five years, the Czech Republic has attracted an average of US\$5 billion annually in foreign direct investment. Flows even reached US\$10 billion in 2002. In the automotive sector alone, almost 30% of FDI projects in Europe's projects ended up here, by far the best result on the continent. Why so much success for a country whose population barely exceeds 10 million? In the Czech Republic, you will discover what others have already found: high productivity, skilled labour, an ideal location in the heart of Europe, a sophisticated government support program for investment, and a good quality of life. These conditions make the Czech Republic the ideal springboard for exports to other countries in the region.





According to the OECD, Slovakia will experience the best economic growth in Europe over the next three years. The smart Canadian exporter will give this small, often-overlooked country of five million more attention. From a humble start, Slovakia has made great strides in a relatively short period. Improvements include a deep—and generally problem-free—privatization program, implementation of a 19% flat tax rate for corporations and individuals, and investment inducements. The result is a healthier business climate throughout the country. Canada's competitors are establishing themselves at a breakneck pace before EU accession, so time shouldn't be lost in seeking opportunities.

CONTACT: milan.harustiak@dfait-maeci.gc.ca

Priority Sectors — Czech Republic and Slovakia

Agri-food: In this rather traditional sector, Canadian exporters continue to succeed in areas that aren't traditional at all: insemination techniques, cat and dog food, and pulses. There is also a great demand for fish and seafood at competitive prices. Buyers will attend the big international fairs such as SIAL, ANUGA, AGRIBITION and WCFPS.

CONTACT: ilona.boldova@dfait-maeci.gc.ca



Building Materials and Housing: Familiarity with Canadian construction materials and techniques has improved in the last four years, and there are now numerous opportunities for Canadian-style housing. Each year the Embassy organizes promotional events throughout the territory.

CONTACT: jitka.hoskova@dfait-maeci.gc.ca

Upcoming Conference on the New Europe.

The Munk Centre at the University of Toronto is organizing a symposium entitled "Canadian Business in the New Europe: Opportunities and Challenges," for February 26-27, 2004. This third annual conference is aimed at Canadian firms, large and small, interested in the prospects for doing business in the new 25-member European Union, as well as the complexities involved. The conference represents an exceptional opportunity to hear from a variety of policymakers, scholars and Canadian investors currently doing business in the region. For more information, consult the Centre's Web site (www.utoronto.ca/mcis/neweurope) or contact Dr. Robert Austin: robert.austin@utoronto.ca

Environment: The Czech Republic and Slovakia will intensify their efforts to conform to EU environmental norms for wastewater and solid waste treatment. In addition, the Czech market holds opportunities for automobile recycling, the development of renewable energy sources such as wind turbines and methane collection, and natural gas retrofit of public and private vehicles.

CONTACT: jitka.hoskova@dfait-maeci.gc.ca

Transportation:

There is a great tradition locally of manufacturing public transit equipment, particularly streetcars and trains. Canadian companies can benefit from local expertise to penetrate peripheral markets. In addition, four large auto manufacturers are established in both the Czech and Slovak markets. Auto parts suppliers will do well by emulating their competitors and setting up here to export throughout the region.

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Canada showcases its clinical expertise in the Big Apple

The Canadian Consulate General in New York, in collaboration with the New York Biotech Association and the Government of Ontario, organized and hosted a half-day seminar on clinical trials in November 2003 at the New York Academy of Sciences in New York City.

The purpose of the seminar was twofold. The first was to showcase Canadian clinical expertise, discuss the regulatory and research and development (R&D) environments in Canada and promote Canada as a cost-competitive and resource-rich location in which to conduct clinical trials. The second was to educate U.S. biotech companies on the regulatory and clinical considerations to be taken in setting up successful clinical trials in Canada and the U.S., with the ultimate goal of obtaining U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Health Canada approval.

The event attracted some 50 attendees, 20 of whom were representatives of biotech companies, and presented a unique opportunity for Canadian and U.S. biotech companies to discuss the challenges related to clinical trials. Also, the fact that both the FDA and Health Canada were on the same panel attracted many attendees.

Raising Canada's profile

Pamela Wallin, Canada's Consul General in New York, gave opening remarks, focused on the well-established Canada-Tri-State area economic relationship and cited examples of local companies running successful clinical trials in Canada. Wallin also promoted Canada's leadership as an innovative centre of R&D. The seminar was divided into two panels: one on regulatory affairs and the other on how to run successful clinical trials in an evolving regulatory and increasingly international environment.



Invited speakers included both U.S. and Canadian industry experts, including Anne Tomalin, CanReg Inc.; Dr. Patricia Keagan, FDA; Dr. Agnes V. Klein, Health Canada; Darshan Wariabharaj, OSI Pharmaceuticals; Dr. Christian Marsolais, Pfizer Canada; Dr. Jonathan Willmer, Prime Trials Inc.; Richard Côté, Cirion BioPharma Research Inc.; Dr. Nigel Brown, MDS Pharma Services; Dr. Herbert Henney, Pharmos Corp.; Dr. Mitch Katz, Acorda Therapeutics; Dr. Malcolm Moore, University Health Network; Wendy Porter, Endpoint Research;

Blaine Templeman, Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky and Popeo; and Dr. Marc Berthelet, Canada Customs and Revenue Agency.

The seminar also provided an excellent opportunity to showcase Canada's expertise in the clinical trial field. A presentation on the Canadian R&D tax credit program, a discussion of the regulatory similarities between the two countries, and the ability to obtain FDA approval on trials conducted in Canada all served to encourage participants to consider Canada as a viable location in which to set up and run clinical trials.

Overall, the seminar provided valuable information to participating biotech companies, whether they were in an early stage or running more advanced trials. It also proved to be a great opportunity for the Government of Canada and some Canadian biotech companies to establish new contacts and gain visibility within the life science community in New York.

For more information on opportunities in the biotech sector in the Tri-State area, contact Tab Borden, Consul and Trade Commissioner (Princeton Office), tel.: (609) 333-9940, e-mail: commerce@canapple.com or www.newyork.gc.ca *

Notice to exporters:

New reporting requirements

The Export Process Division of the **Canada Border Services Agency** is currently revising the Reporting of Exported Goods Regulations and the related Customs D memorandum (D20-1-1). It is anticipated that the new regulations will become law in spring 2004. The new reporting requirements will impact the responsibilities of exporters, carriers and service providers.

For more information on these new regulations and how these apply to your business, go to www.ccradrc.gc.ca/customs/business/exporting/menu-e.html, or contact any Regional Client Services Office at 1 800 461-9999. *

Rising dollar — *continued from page 1*

Indeed, 90% of exporting companies view the value of the dollar as pivotal to their success in foreign markets. Forty-three percent believe the dollar will remain at current levels (US\$.75-.76 when the survey was taken), while 37% think that it will increase in the next six months. Only 20% of businesses now expect the dollar to decline, which is less than the 30% reading in the spring.

Companies in nearly all industry sectors expressed greater trade confidence, with base and semi-manufactured goods, information technology and transportation posting the most impressive gains, while the ban on Canadian beef and sluggish demand for consumer goods kept the confidence levels of companies in the agri-food and consumer goods sectors unchanged.

Confidence levels in Western Canada rose to 77 from 74 TCI points as exporters anticipate continued export growth in oil and gas, industrial equipment and agri-food. Similarly, increasing U.S. demand for resource-based exports from the Atlantic region caused confidence levels to rise to 76

from 73 across the region. In Ontario and Quebec, where the rising dollar is felt more acutely because of the size of the manufacturing sector, trade confidence remained unchanged during the last six months.

The survey also found that Canadian businesses have become even more bullish in their hiring intentions with 34% planning to add staff in the next six months, compared with 30% last spring. The majority (59%) see their hiring intentions remaining the same and only 6% said they intended to decrease staff.

The U.S. (80%) continues to be identified as the export market of choice by Canadian exporters, followed more distantly by the European Union (19%), Asia (17%) and Central and South America (11%). In the last 18 months, there has been a considerable upgrade in the importance of the Asian market for Canadian exporters.

EDC Economics expects the global economy to expand by 4% in 2004 compared with 3.3% in 2003. Growth is expected to be balanced around the world: 4.5% in the U.S., 3.6% in

Canada, 6% in Asia, 4.5% in Central and Eastern Europe and Russia, 2% in Western Europe and 1.2% in Japan.

Opinion Search Inc. conducted the survey in November. A total of 1,000 respondents participated. The TCI was calculated based on a total of 688 responses out of the total surveyed (those who responded to all five elements of the TCI: six-month projections on global and domestic economic conditions, trade opportunities, domestic and foreign sales). The survey results are considered accurate to +/-3%, 19 times out of 20.

The full report can be accessed through EDC's Web site at www.edc.ca/docs/ereports/tradeConfidence/index_e.htm.

EDC provides trade finance and risk management services to Canadian exporters and investors in up to 200 markets. Founded in 1944, EDC is a Crown corporation that operates as a commercial financial institution.

For more information, contact Daniela Pizzuto, EDC Public Affairs, tel.: (613) 598-6829, e-mail: dpizzuto@edc.ca. *

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Minnesota to host international medical conference

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA — June 23-25, 2004 — The first annual **Medical Alley MedEdge International Conference** will bring together more than 1,000 industry professionals working at the frontiers of medical science. Canada will be a Silver Level sponsor of MedEdge and the Canadian Consulate General in Minneapolis has reserved a block of booths for a Canadian pavilion.

This conference will be held under the auspices of Medical Alley, an organization that promotes dialogue and synergy among all the diverse segments of the health care industry, in a region that has led the world in the development of medical knowledge.

For more information, go to www.mededgeinternational.com, or contact Dana S. Boyle, Business Development Officer, Canadian Consulate General in Minneapolis, e-mail: dana.boyle@dfait-maeci.gc.ca. *

CeBIT 2004

Technology Partnering Forum

HANNOVER, GERMANY — March 18, 2004 — Information and communications technology (ICT) researchers are invited to participate in a **Technology Partnering Forum at CeBIT 2004**, the world's leading event for information technology, telecommunications, software and services.

Organized by the Science and Technology Division of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, the Canadian and European Partners of **Information Society Technologies - Europe Canada (IST-EC)** and the Canadian Embassy in Berlin, the forum will provide selected Canadian ICT researchers with an

opportunity to address and meet with their counterparts, as well as business and financial leaders from Europe and around the world.

The forum will take place in Future Parc 2004, CeBIT's science and technology special exhibit where major national and international research organizations and companies will meet to present results of their R&D, and demonstrate their capabilities.

IST-EC is a two-year joint project established to foster collaboration between European and Canadian researchers in the ICT sector. IST-EC's methodology includes the organization of partnering sessions at major international conferences such as CeBIT,

where participants present their project ideas, meet with potential partners and initiate joint R&D projects. For more information, go to www.ist-ec.org.

For more information on CeBIT, contact Jim Burt, Science and Technology Division, DFAIT, tel.: (613) 996-4292, e-mail: jim.burt@dfait-maeci.gc.ca, Web site: www.cebit.de. *

Project Qatar 2004

DOHA, QATAR — September 19-23, 2004 — **Project Qatar 2004** is the first international trade exhibition for building, construction and environmental technology and materials and will attract international and Arab manufacturers and suppliers.

Opportunities

High demand for construction technology, power, building materials and equipment makes Qatar an ideal market for new suppliers and products. Qatar's rapid regional and global economic and commercial expansion is making it one of the most vibrant countries in the region. Although much of Qatar's business activity is focused on its oil- and gas-related industries, there are other types of industry in the country, mostly carried out by the private sector.

Major areas covered are the production of materials for the construction industry and the building of new hotels and touristic venues. Revenue from oil concessions is also being used for developments such as roads, housing, landscaping and environmental projects, power plants, hospitals, schools and parks.

For more information, contact George Sanderson, Commercial Counsellor, Canadian Embassy in Kuwait, e-mail: george.sanderson@dfait-maeci.gc.ca, or Bechara Nacouzi, tel.: (514) 685-3530, fax: (514) 685-6873, e-mail: bnacouzi@videotron.ca. *

Thousands flock to French livestock show

RENNES, FRANCE — September 14-17, 2004 — **SPACE 2004** is France's largest livestock show and is appropriately situated in the heart of Brittany, which produces over half of France's supply of pigs, chickens bred for meat and egg-producing chickens, and about 40% of the country's dairy livestock. In 2003, this show attracted 114,256 visitors, 8,390 of whom were from outside France. Of the 1,378 exhibitors, 394 were international.

Some Canadian exhibitors at SPACE 2003 included Semex France, a subsidiary of Guelph-based **Semex Canada**, which develops genetic technologies, products and services for livestock producers; **Eurobiosor**, a

Quebec-based company and subsidiary of the Centre de recherche industrielle du Québec (CRIQ), which produces a farm effluent treatment system; and Montreal-based **Lallemand Animal Nutrition**, which develops yeast and bacteria for agricultural applications.

Attending SPACE 2004 could prove to be very profitable for Canadian companies looking to sell livestock products in France or other parts of Europe. **For more information**, contact Yannick Dheilley, Commercial Officer, tel.: (011-33) 1-44-43-23-61, fax: (011-33) 1-44-43-29-98, e-mail: yannick.dheilley@dfait-maeci.gc.ca, Web site: www.space.fr. *

UAE to host IT show this fall

DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES — October 3-7, 2004 — **GITEX Dubai** is the largest technology trade show in the region. In 2003, 774 exhibitors and more than 82,000 visitors from around the world took part. Attend GITEX and capitalize on outstanding networking opportunities, display your latest technologies and launch new products and services targeting the Arabian market. **For more information**, contact the Canadian Consulate in Dubai, tel.: (011-971) 4-314-5555, fax: (011-971) 4-314-5556, e-mail: dubai-td@dfait-maeci.gc.ca. *

