



No. 187

October 1, 1993

TOM HOCKIN TO PRESENT CANADA EXPORT AWARDS

The Honourable Tom Hockin, Minister for International Trade, will present the 1993 Canada Export Awards to 10 top Canadian exporting companies on October 4, 1993.

The presentation of the awards is the first event of Canada International Trade Month, an annual initiative that celebrates the success of Canadian exporters and encourages and assists enterprises to pursue international business opportunities.

This year's recipients were chosen from 166 applications by a panel of Canadian business executives. In the 11-year history of the Canada Export Awards, 148 awards have been presented, selected from over 2000 entries. In 1993, Canada's geographic and industrial diversity is well represented, with winning companies from coast to coast, and products ranging from sophisticated telecommunications equipment to creative children's toys.

"Canadian exports reached record levels in 1992, and they continue to drive our economy in 1993 and lead the way in Canada's efforts to overcome the global economic recession," Mr. Hockin said.

The Minister noted that the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement has helped many of this year's award winners to make substantial gains in the U.S. market. "I am pleased to see that these companies have also achieved major breakthroughs in other international markets, particularly in Europe and Asia-Pacific."

Mr. Hockin added: "The employees who have devoted their talents and skills to the success of these companies deserve the grateful recognition of their fellow Canadians. It is through their efforts that Canada will maintain its stature as one of the world's most competitive exporting nations.

"The intensely competitive nature of today's global economy has forced Canadian firms to strengthen their efforts to

gain access to new markets and to increase the productivity and quality of their operations and products. These 10 companies are doubly deserving of our respect under these difficult circumstances, having demonstrated to all Canadians that we can successfully compete with the rest of the world.

"They serve as models for the many Canadian business people who have yet to take the leap into the world market. I hope that by celebrating their success we can encourage others to follow their example. With the anticipated North American Free Trade Agreement, we are on the brink of significant new trade opportunities and we should strive to participate fully in the rewards that these opportunities offer."

The presentation of the 1993 Canada Export Awards will take place at the 50th annual convention of the Canadian Exporters' Association in Vancouver, on October 4, 1993.

Mr. Hockin noted that External Affairs and International Trade Canada, with its worldwide network of trade offices and market development programs, will continue to offer a helping hand to Canadian firms looking to export their products and services to international markets.

A list of the recipients of the 1993 Canada Export Awards is attached.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office
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1993 CANADA EXPORT AWARDS

Hall & Stavert Ltd.
Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island

Husky Injection Molding Systems Ltd.
Bolton, Ontario

I.P. Constructors Ltd.
Calgary, Alberta

Merfin Hygienic Products Ltd.
Delta, British Columbia

Newbridge Networks Corporation
Kanata, Ontario

PROCECO Industrial Machinery Ltd.
Montreal, Quebec

Rescan Consultants Inc.
Vancouver, British Columbia

Ritvik Toys Inc.
Dorval, Quebec

Sandylion Sticker Designs Ltd.
Markham, Ontario

The Training Group (TTG)
Edmonton, Alberta