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# News Release

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## GOVERNMENT OF CANADA SUPPORTS DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNOLOGY TO IMPROVE MARITIME DEFENCE SYSTEMS

**VANCOUVER, British Columbia, April 26, 2004** — The Honourable David Anderson, Minister of the Environment, on behalf of the Honourable Lucienne Robillard, Minister of Industry and Minister responsible for the Economic Development Agency of Canada for the Regions of Quebec, today announced a \$3.76-million strategic investment in a research and development initiative dedicated to improving geographic display capabilities in defence navigation and control systems. This Technology Partnerships Canada (TPC) investment is part of a \$12.5-million, multi-year project being undertaken by Offshore Systems Ltd. to advance the implementation of electronic charts into navigation systems and to integrate electronic geography into other applications of military command and control. The technology will support enhanced safety, security, communications and navigation in maritime defence operations.

"This investment underscores the firm commitment of the Government of Canada to enable Canadian companies to advance critical research in our maritime defence industry," said Minister Robillard. "Through public-private partnerships, the development of cutting-edge technologies will help to enhance public security and safety for the benefit of all Canadians."

"British Columbia is recognized for its leadership in developing innovative military marine technologies," said Minister Anderson. "Investments in small and medium-sized enterprises, such as Offshore Systems, enable Canadian companies to develop new tools to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of our maritime defences."

Offshore's advanced technology will manage and display nautical and land-based mapping data in order to make military operations safer. The integration of high-performance mapping and imagery displays will contribute to the identification of surface and underwater threats. Navigational aids will permit the safer and faster movement of ships by allowing them to stay on course, reducing groundings and collisions. As well, the development and use of a common operational picture, presenting data from several applications and multiple data formats into one single fused display, will allow for a more efficient review and exchange of critical data during military operations. Enhancing interoperability among the Armed Forces will be a key benefit of this new technology.

"TPC's continued support has been an important factor in the development of our leading military navigation products," said John Jacobson, Chief Executive Officer of Offshore Systems Ltd. "This investment will enable us to accelerate our efforts to bring electronic geography to additional defence and commercial applications."



"This project supports emerging requirements in maritime command and control," said Ronald Newhook, President and Chief Executive Officer of CCMC, a Canadian centre of expertise in marine information and communications technology. "Innovative technologies such as these will allow the maritime sector to successfully meet the challenges of the environment in which it operates."

Offshore Systems Ltd. is a subsidiary of Offshore Systems International Ltd. (OSI). OSI's core strengths lie in the ability to produce, manage and display many forms of geographic data. The company provides display systems and data for several defence, government and commercial customers. OSI conducts its operations through three business units: OSI Geomatics (data production and distribution), OSI Navigation Systems, and OSI Applications (products and services for command and control systems). OSI's common shares are listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange (TSX: OSI) and the Nasdaq OTC Bulletin Board (OTCBB: OFSYF).

Technology Partnerships Canada is a special operating agency of Industry Canada, with a mandate to provide funding support for strategic research and development, and demonstration projects that will produce economic, social and environmental benefits for Canadians.

Since 1996, TPC's activity has been rooted in helping Canadian companies perform research and development projects that take new technologies closer to the marketplace. These projects have the potential to improve the efficiency of production processes in traditional sectors as well as support innovation in emerging technologies, enabling Canadian companies to become world class.

Canadian industries take the lead in bringing innovation forward to the marketplace. TPC acts as a catalyst, investing strategically to accelerate the successful development of key technologies that will benefit Canadians in their everyday lives.

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The news release and other documents are available on the Technology Partnerships Canada Web site at <http://tpc.ic.gc.ca> and on the OSI Web site at <http://www.osil.com>.