

Advanced lasers for researchers

Canadian industrial scientists interested in or currently engaged in laser and lightwave research and development are provided with a unique investigative opportunity by the Central Facility of the Ontario Laser and Lightwave Research Centre (OLLRC). Located on the downtown University of Toronto campus, the 4,000 square foot Facility is equipped with sophisticated laser, optical and electro-optical instruments. A wide variety of lasers and equipment is available, including a micro-macro probe Raman system, CW and pulsed dye lasers, multigas Excimer lasers, a nanosecond Nd:YAG laser, fibre optic instruments and appropriate detector systems. The Facility is managed by a Ph.D. scientist with extensive experience in the Canadian laser industry. He is assisted by a staff scientist, also with an industrial background, and a technician. The staff is available for consultation in the design and execution of experiments.

The OLLRC is one of the seven Centres of Excellence established by the Ontario Premier's Council in 1987 with a view to placing the Province in the forefront of international economic and technological development. The OLLRC is a non-profit corporation, managed by a board of directors and fully funded by the Ontario Government. As well as promoting the transfer and development of technology, the OLLRC endeavours to stimulate the production of advanced research and to train and develop researchers. Thanks to the generous funding provided by the Premier's Council Technology Fund, the OLLRC has been able to mount a highly specialized, innovative research program. This program brings together in close collaboration for the first time twelve senior scientists, known as Principal Investigators, from the University of Toronto Departments of Chemistry, Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Physics and the Institute for Aerospace Studies. Theme area of their investigation are novel lasers and light sources, laser spectroscopy, lightwave science and engineering, ultrafast nonlinear optics and opto-electronics and lasers in medicine. The program of the Central Facility is directed mainly to the external industrial community: while the Principal Investigators may occasionally make use of it, the research program for which they are responsible is conducted mainly in their own laboratories.

The establishment of the Central Facility by the OLLRC is part of its mandate to encourage the transfer and diffusion of technology to industry. The Facility provides an environment in which the industrial scientist may combine scientific investigation with his/her knowledge of the market-place in the pursuit of technology development. In addition to the opportunity provided for hands-on research, the Facility will from time to time conduct professional development courses for the benefit of industry. These will be short, one or two day sessions given by some of the Centre's Principal Investigators and designed to respond to the immediate interests of industry.

The equipment and staff expertise of the Central Facility are provided to qualified users for the purpose of conducting experiments of feasibility studies in-house or, in certain cases, on loan on the user's premises. Access to the Facility is flexible and uncomplicated. Exploratory research can be conducted with minimal capital investment and short feasibility studies or proof-of-concept studies can be done

without formal funding. The equipment and expertise will be particularly useful to industry in performing proof-of-concept studies for product development and quality control, fabricating new optical or opto-electronic materials, testing in-

formation for research proposals and contracts, and calibrating light sources, detectors and other optical elements.

Industrial users of the Facility are assured of independence and privacy. All committee and staff

members who handle Facility documents are bound by confidentiality agreements, and discussion of applications of the equipment with anyone outside the OLLRC is expressly forbidden. In addition, users of the Facility are entitled to

request staff members to enter into non-disclosure agreements with them. The OLLRC will make no claim against intellectual property developed in the Facility unless other arrangements are made.

Applications for the use of the Central Facility are assessed by a committee made up of a balanced representation of industry and academia in Ontario. Applicants are encouraged to be concise in their project descriptions and need provide only enough information for the committee to assess the project's feasibility and compatibility with the Facility's resources. The review process is rapid and applicants are notified promptly of decisions. The OLLRC actively encourages industrial participation in the Facility and charges for its use are consequently modest: during the current start-up phase they are \$50.00 per day to researchers from private industry (plus the cost of consumables); no charge, other than for consumables, to researchers from non-profit organizations.

Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology

Software directory published

The Ontario Government has published a directory of the software industry in Ontario, Industry, Trade and Technology minister Monte Kwinter announced recently. The publication, entitled "The Software Industry: Profile and Directory", lists over 1,000 firms in this sector.

"It is intended to be used as a guide for sourcing software products in Ontario and to give an overview of the industry," said Mr. Kwinter.

The directory lists firms alphabetically and by major line of business. The profile contains findings from a survey of one-quarter of these companies. This information will be updated and enhanced with more detailed information for future editions.

"The Ontario software industry generates over \$1.3 billion a year

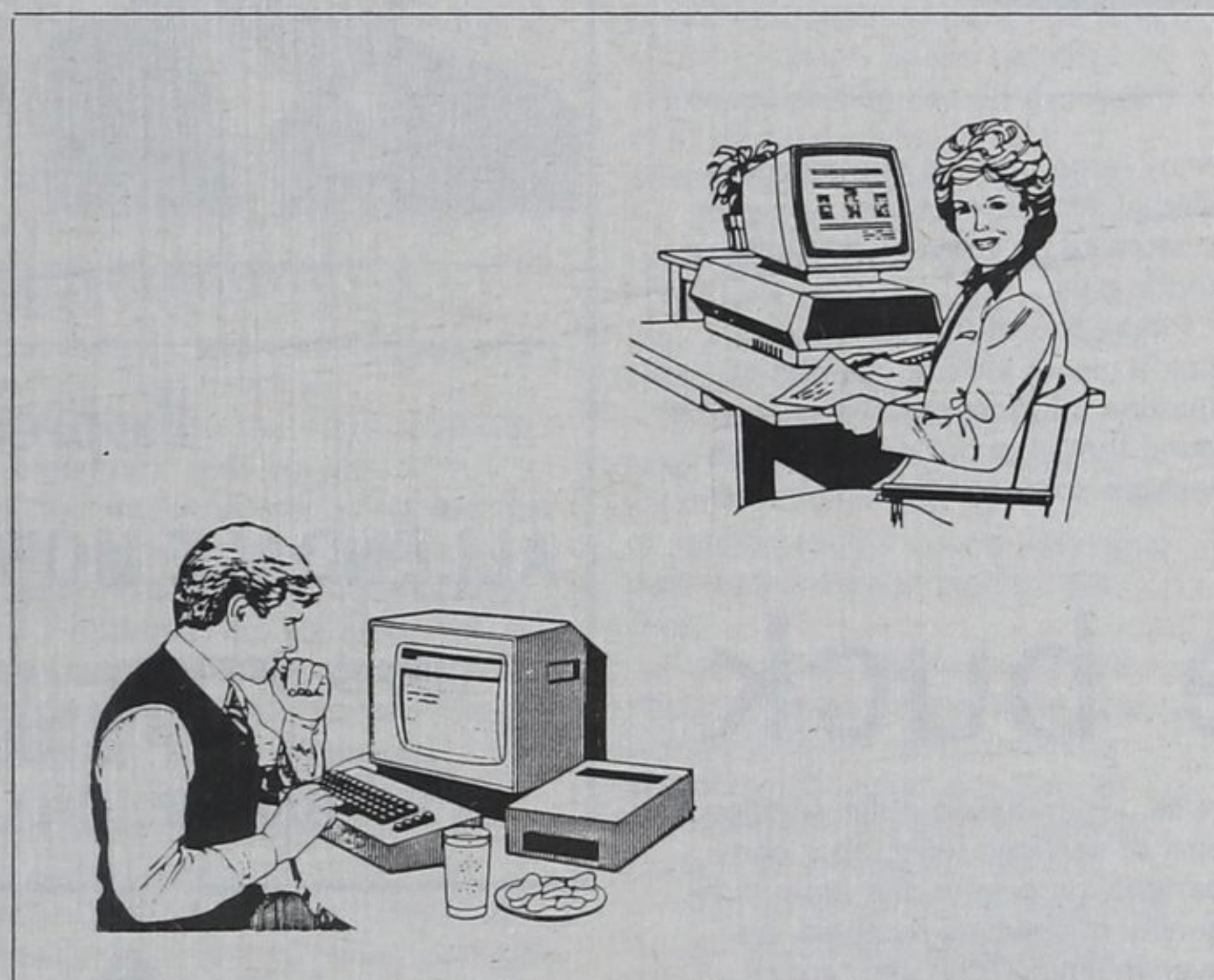
in revenues, yet until now accurate information on the size and scope of the industry has been difficult to obtain. This publication sets out to define the industry and provide insight into this dynamic sector of the economy, particularly with respect to software research and development, and marketing," added Mr. Kwinter.

The results of the survey show that 40 per cent of the firms generate less than \$200,000 in annual sales; while about one-quarter generate over \$2 million in sales revenues. Two-thirds perform software research and development, with the smaller firms tending to be relatively more research-intensive.

The survey also found that half of the firms export, mostly to the U.S. Most companies sell directly to the end-user, as well as to consultants and distributors. The current industry focus is on custom

applications rather than on the potentially more lucrative packaged software market.

This publication can be purchased for \$5 at the Ontario Government Bookstore at 880 Bay Street in Toronto. To order by phone in Toronto, call 965-6015; from other communities, call 1-800-268-7540; and in area code 807, ask the operator for Zenith 67200. The directory is also available on computer diskettes; call the Company Information Centre at 965-7972.



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