

Meet the EMS Space and Technology Group

EMS Space and Technology/Canada Group is the Canadian subsidiary of a U.S. company called EMS Technologies. Based in Georgia and founded as Electro-Magnetic Sciences, EMS purchased this Canadian company in Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, Quebec, in 1999. At that time, it was the Satellite Products division of Spar Aerospace.

Spar was the prime contractor for RADARSAT-1, the world's most advanced commercial Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) satellite. It is also the top subcontractor for RADARSAT-2.

RADARSAT 1

Although Spar was the prime contractor that designed and built RADARSAT-1,¹ it is better known for manufacturing the Canadarm. This "Remote Manipulator System" has aided many military missions of the U.S. Space Shuttle.

Spar was formally touted as Canada's "largest space company with 2,500 employees and \$594 million in sales."² However, Spar virtually left the space business when it sold its Satellite Products division to EMS in 1999.

Spar Aerospace was also a partner in the corporate consortium called RADARSAT International (RSI). RSI won the contract to oversee the marketing and sales of data gathered by RADARSAT-1,³ and subsequently sold off those rights to Lockheed Martin and ORBIMAGE, two large U.S. war industries.³ (See pp.30-32.)

RADARSAT 2

Spar won the subcontract to design and build the most important aspect of RADARSAT-2, the satellite's payload, namely, "the SAR antenna and the radar electronics package."⁴

MacDonald, Dettwiler and Associates (MDA), the prime contractor for RADARSAT-2, paid Spar \$90 million for this subcontract, which it called "the most advanced commercial SAR payload in history."⁵

EMS Canada Supplies the "Missile Defense" Giants

When *Forbes* magazine published an article in August 2001 noting that President Bush's sponsorship of the "missile defense" weapons program would mean a major boost to the faltering high-technology sector, it named just three companies that were most likely to cash in: DRS Technologies, L-3 Communications and EMS Technologies. The short blurb in *Forbes* about EMS, highlights only one branch of its business, its Space and Technologies group, led by the former Spar division in Quebec.⁶

Forbes described EMS Technologies by saying that the company's: "Space and Technologies segment (45% of revenue) manufactures hardware for space and satellite communications, radar, surveillance and military countermeasures."⁷

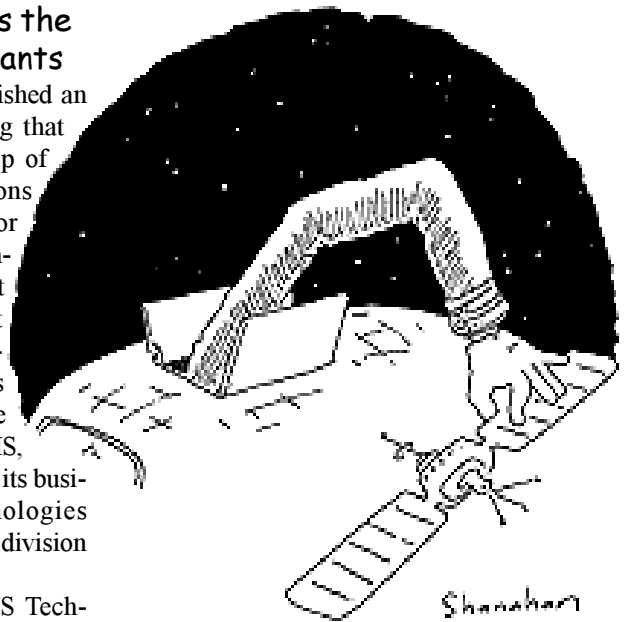
When the influential *Forbes Magazine* predicts that a company will benefit from "missile defense" contracts, it probably means something, at least to potential investors.

In puffs that appear to flow from the pens of *Forbes'* own promoters, the magazine is described with accolades saying that it is the:

"most trusted voice in business journalism. The voice of market capitalism...for over 80 years.... packed with...stories that anticipate major trends [and] identify new opportunities.... revealing what's new and what's next."⁸

The *Forbes* article mentioning EMS was perhaps wrong to cite only three secondary military corporations, instead of "The Big Four" (Boeing, Raytheon, Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman), which receive some 60% of the contracts for "missile defense" weapons development.

However, it *is* likely that EMS falls near the very top of a second-tier of military subcontractors that have



benefited most handsomely from the "missile defense" cash cow.

On the EMS website, under a typical but misleadingly euphemistic subheading, "Defense Electronics," the company lists only four clients of its "Space & Technology" products. The corporations cited are none other than "The Big Four" prime contractors for the "missile defense" weapons program. As EMS says:

"Boeing, Raytheon, Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman rely on EMS to provide critical components for radar, secure communications and electronic warfare systems. Our Space & Technology products are meeting the Pentagon's strengthened emphasis on defense electronics."⁹

The links between EMS Technologies, "The Big Four" and Canada are not limited to its "Space & Technology" division in Quebec. A 2004 media release from the EMS head office, mentions its Ottawa-based SATCOM Division (previously known as CAL Corporation), which it acquired in 1993.¹⁰

The Ottawa-based, satellite communications branch of EMS serves clients in the U.S. military as well as several top U.S. firms that profit from war. In fact, three of the five U.S. war industries listed as its customers are

EMS Technologies
Space & Technology

EMS Space & Technology
21025 Trans Canada Hwy
Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue
QC H9X 3R2
www.emsstg.com

EMS SATCOM
1725 Woodward Dr.
Ottawa
ON K2C 0P9
www.emssatcom.com

EMS
SATCOM

again from the notorious “Big Four”:

“EMS Technologies announced today [November 1, 2004] at the MILCOM 2004, Military Communications Conference, the appointment of Jim Kershaw to Account Manager, U.S. Military and Government Sales, for the Aeronautical Group of EMS’s SATCOM Division [in Ottawa]. Kershaw... will serve the needs of EMS customers, including L-3 Communications, General Dynamics, Boeing, Northrop Grumman, Lockheed Martin and the U.S. military.”¹¹ (Emphasis added.)

It certainly helps military industries in their efforts to gain lucrative war-related contracts when their personnel have good connections within government. It is likewise true that when personnel from military industries venture through the revolving door from the world of business into the world of government, that they can still serve their previous, corporate masters. They can do this in a number of ways including influencing public policies to benefit their former friends in business, or advising their corporate buddies about government contract opportunities.

Meet Phillip Baines

One former EMS executive who now wanders Canada’s halls of government is Phillip Baines. After receiving a University of Toronto degree in aerospace engineering, Baines gravitated into Canada’s biggest space-related military industry, Spar (now EMS). He worked there for nearly 20 years in “various mechanical engineering, systems engineering and project management assignments of increasing responsibility.”¹²

His skills and knowledge may even have assisted EMS work on RADARSAT-1.

Since 2000, Baines has worked as Senior Advisor on Science and Technology in the “Non-Proliferation, Arms Control and Disarmament” (NPACD) division¹³ of Canada’s Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT). (See below.) Nowadays, Baines is cited as the Senior Policy Advisor on Science and Technology with NPACD’s “Chemical, Biological and Conventional Weapons Division.”¹⁴

It is unknown whether Baines has ever criticised the U.S. for its flagrant abuses of these weapons systems or, more pointedly, his Depart-

ment’s role in helping Canadian companies to supply the U.S. with hundreds of major components for the delivery systems of these weapons.

In putting forward its “disarmament” face to the world, DFAIT has done well by hiring a seasoned veteran of the military-related company responsible for this country’s most famous space technology, the Canadarm. Few however realise that the EMS Space and Technology Group is also one of Canada’s major participants in the militarisation of space.

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Meet DFAIT’s Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde

Ironically, alongside its noble role in promoting dialogue on disarmament and arms control, the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) is also responsible for helping increase Canada’s military exports.

DFAIT uses many methods to push Canadian arms exports, many of which end up in the hands of military forces in dozens of far-flung regimes every year. Many of the governments receiving Canadian war technologies, as past issues of this magazine have amply shown, are engaged in wars against other states, and—sometimes even more brutally—against their own civilian populations.

Despite the fact that some of its employees facilitate Canadian military exports to a motley crew of violent governments, DFAIT is still widely perceived as a leader in promoting global ‘arms control.’ Oddly enough, although

Canada is America’s biggest military supplier, and although U.S. military forces are inarguably involved in more wars, invasions, coups and violent regime changes than any other government on earth, DFAIT’s reputation as a promoter of peace is still secure.

This is not to say that some officials at DFAIT aren’t well meaning, or that DFAIT doesn’t do some positive work. Rather, the point is merely to expose the Dr.-Jekyll-and-Mr.-Hyde qualities of DFAIT’s good cop-bad cop contributions to promoting both war and peace.

There is certainly a duplicitous and contradictory agenda in the works, and DFAIT does its best to bridge the chasm between a delicate facade of diplomatic words about ‘disarmament,’ on one hand, and the harsh reality of pushing military exports to warmongers and human rights violators, on the other.

