OECD TO HOLD TWO-DAY SEMINAR ON MILITARY/INDUSTRIAL CONVERSION WITH TELECOMMUNICATIONS FOCUS

Krasnoyarsk (Russian Federation), 24th-25th March 1992

A two-day seminar on military/industrial conversion is to be held in the Siberian city of Krasnoyarsk on 24th-25th March. Sponsored by the United Kingdom’s “Know-how” Fund, and organised under the auspices of the OECD’s Centre for Co-operation with European Economies in Transition (CCEET), the meeting will bring together about 100 government experts and senior businessmen from the telecommunications sector in OECD countries and the Russian Federation.

The seminar has two main themes. First, it will discuss overall questions relating to military/industrial conversion, using the telecommunications sector as a special case study. Secondly, it will bring together potential business partners from OECD countries with their Russian counterparts for on-the-spot contacts to facilitate the involvement of the Western business community in the conversion effort.

The telecommunications sector is a leading candidate for military/industrial conversion in the former Soviet Union because of the current high level of military activity in the field on both the services and equipment side, but also because the civilian network and services are in a poor state. A functioning information exchange system is an essential component of a market-oriented economy, and therefore communications and non-military space -- with a strong telecommunications dimension -- have been listed for priority conversion action.

A team of OECD experts visited the Krasnoyarsk area following an invitation from the local authorities. Until last year the Krasnoyarsk region was closed to Western access because of its concentration of military facilities and production. Krasnoyarsk has, among other military-oriented industries, satellite research and development facilities, as well as two major plants which have already gone some way in the conversion process.

Telecommunications military/industrial conversion can be envisaged notably in manufacturing (microwave, satellite and cellular radio), service networks (specialist digital networks), frequency spectrum (especially for voice channels), and satellite capacity.

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