SNG terminal, from trial to application

Television news gathering from remote locations is more often than not a painstaking duty. Television crews must use shoulder-portable television cameras and videotape recorders in the field to record events. Once on tape, the news items are flown to TV network broadcast centres in major cities, and then transmitted to the central news room. This time-consuming and costly process can delay the news until the next day.

This is now changing, thanks to one Anik B pilot project undertaken in May 1981 by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) in conjunction with the Department of Communications, which has shown that satellite technology combined with conventional electronic news gathering can overcome time and distance.

The satellite news gathering terminal (SNG) uses a portable earth station mounted on a truck to send electronic signals to the Anik B satellite. These signals are relayed to earth stations in Montreal and Toronto, which means that an event taking place in Antigonish, Nova Scotia, or Val d'Or, Quebec, can be fed live to network headquarters and appear instantaneously on television screens across the country.

Designed by the Communications Research Centre of DOC, the SNG terminal is highly mobile and can be easily deployed by one person within thirty minutes. The CBC has used it frequently over the past year to provide up-to-the-minute electronic news coverage of sports events, conventions or occurrences of national importance, from locations where terrestrial facilities are unavailable.

Weighing over 2,400 kilograms, the terminal consists of two parts: the basic trailer chassis and a turntable. The trailer is equipped with levelling jacks at each corner, while the turntable has an equipment shelter at the front and a 1.8 metre parabolic antenna at the rear. It is possible for an experienced technician to align the terminal with the Anik B satellite in less than five minutes.

The trial, which officially ended in September 1982, has been so successful that Telesat Canada is now planning this year the introduction of a commercial service using several new SNG terminals. The major U.S. television networks have also expressed an interest in this project.

Last fall, **Douglas Parkhill**, ADMR, presented at CRC a plaque to **Ron Barrington**, Director General of Radar and Communications Technology Research and Development (DGRC), on the occasion of his 25 years of service with the federal government.

Wa-Wa-Ta ten years later

Ten years ago, the Wa-Wa-Ta Native Communications Society in North Western Ontario was only a vision. With its 39 communities scattered over 250,000 square kilometres of isolated land — no roads, no railways — Wa-Wa-Ta, also called Treaty No. 9, did not even have a radio service. Today, the Society publishes a monthly newsletter, maintains a high frequency radio network, manages a trail radio distribution program, supports 25 community radio stations and is even planning a satellite-delivered regional radio network.

The Society was formed in 1973 to manage what would become the first community-owned communications service. In establishing its high frequency radio network, through DOC's Northern Pilot Project, Wa-Wa-Ta laid the foundation for the rapid development of communications activities and the articulation of a voice for the Northern natives.

In 1978, four communities carried out a three-month experiment using the Hermes satellite to link community radio stations. Now, thanks to the success of this experiment, Wa-Wa-Ta is hoping to link all its radio stations into an expanded network which will allow the communities to exchange news and share special programs. In its new network's first year of operation, the Wa-Wa-Ta Native Communications Society is planning to produce ten hours a week of network programming in Ojibway and in Cree; two production teams will be needed to cover the entire Treaty No. 9 area.

TVOntario has recently agreed to let Wa-Wa-Ta use one of its channels leased on the Anik C-3 satellite. Because of this, and with the help of a substantial grant for field work and training from the federal government, Wa-Wa-Ta's radio network is becoming a reality in 1983.

Comings and going

Headquarters
James Taylor has joined the Deputy Minister's Office as Special Advisor on planning. Dr. Taylor comes to the Department from the University of Montreal, where he founded and headed the communication studies program.

The Director General of Planning and Co-ordination in the Arts and Culture Sector, **James MacDonald**, has left the Department to take on new duties at Statistics Canada. **John Thera** has taken over on an acting basis.

Jean-Claude Bouchard, formerly Chief, Administrative and Technical Services at CRC, has accepted a new job at DGPA as Director, Policy Sector Coordination. He has been replaced by **Robert Ward** whose responsibilities as Chief, Departmental Computer Operations Division at CRC, have been assumed by **Michael Francis**, originally from the Ministry of State for Science and Technology.

The Communications Economics Branch has a new Director of Economics Policy, **David Mulcaster**, who comes from the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce. **Morley MacKenzie**, Special Assistant to the Director General, has retired; he has been replaced by **Francine Gallo**, formerly from International Relations.

The branch also welcomed its new Director General, **William Montgomery**, formerly the Canadian Ambassador to Indonesia. His predecessor, **Gabriel Warren**, joined External Affairs.

The Director of Extension of Services Policy, **Dan Rainboth**, has accepted a temporary assignment with the Federal-Provincial Relations Branch. He replaces the Director, Federal-Provincial Policy and Planning, **Robert McCaw**, who left for Indian and Northern Affairs. **Vic Banning**, formerly Policy Development Advisor, National Telecommunications Branch, became Director, Ontario and West Liaison with the Federal-Provincial Relations Branch, following **Les Kom's** departure to the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages.

At the National Telecommunications Branch, **Richard Simpson** has been

appointed Director, Financial and Regulatory Policy. He was previously with the Government of Saskatchewan.

Michèle Heaney, Staffing Officer for the Personnel Operations Division, has left us for the Department of National Defence; **Katherine McTavish**, formerly with the Public Service Commission, is replacing her.

Nicky Eichler has accepted a new job with Information Services as Expo '86 Project Coordinator; prior to this appointment, she was Special Assistant to the Director General, Informatics Applications Management.

Atlantic Region

Michel J. LeBlanc, previously with a Toronto firm, has joined the regional office as Microwave Technologist, Operations Branch.

The Financial and Administrative Services Branch has two new employees: **Mariette Mullins**, Financial Advisor, and **Francine Leblanc**, Programmer/Analyst; both come to us from Regional Economic Expansion, in Moncton.

Gilles Bérubé, Jacques Hébert and **Wendy Snow**, recent school graduates, have joined the St. John N.B. office as Radio Inspectors, and **Gary Dupuis** and **Donald Miller** are now working for the Halifax district office. Mr. Miller was formerly with the Coast Guard, in Dartmouth.

Correction : in the first issue of **Communications Express**, we have welcomed **Albion Boudreau**, as Programmer-Analyst. Unfortunately, the information was twisted around. Mr. Boudreau has in fact left the Department for a new appointment with Fisheries and Oceans. Our apologies ...

Quebec Region

Fernando Gutierrez, Supervisor of the Saint-Rémi control station, is now an Engineering Consultant at the regional office.

Ontario Region

Robert H. Mitchell retired recently after 42 years of service with DND and DOC. Replacing him as Manager,

Government Telecommunications Agency, is **Michael Connolly**. **Carl Olsen** took over Mr. Connolly's position of Manager, Spectrum Control and was replaced by **William Hall**, new Manager of the London district office.

Jack Holt and **Jack Gavigan** have been appointed as Communications Technologists. **Joanne McCourt** and **Clinton Guy** now work as Licensing/Exams Specialists in the Toronto district office.

The Government Telecommunications Agency has three new employees: **Larry Hargrove**, Superintendent, Operational Services; **David Morton**, Systems Consultant and **Mun Seng Liu**, Systems Development Officer.

Central Region

Three employees of the Winnipeg regional office have received new appointments: **Dan Kerr**, as Spectrum Allocation Specialist; **Gerry Loewen**, as Communications Technologist; **Frank Fazio**, as Engineering Technologist.

Retirements: **Bob Harper**, Licensing Standards Officer after 36 years of service; **George Stetski**, CATV Technologist, Spectrum Control area, after 35 years, and **Kathy MacLeod**, Research Assistant in the Program Development and Policy Analysis Group, after 32 years.

Ron Robbins and **Len Powers** are on special assignment in Papua, New Guinea.

Pacific Region

Mark Gruenewald, consultant with the Government Telecommunications Agency, has accepted a new job with the Coast Guard of Transport Canada. He was replaced by **Gail Baldock**, formerly of the Vancouver district office.

Geo Ciezek was transferred from the district office in Whitehorse to the one in Victoria. **George Sargent**, a Radio Inspector at the Cranbrook district office has left us for the private industry. **Anne Francis** was promoted to the position of Regional Administrative Services Officer.

Gary Brooks departs for Geneva

In the fall of 1982, the 157 member-countries of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) held their plenipotentiary conference in Nairobi, Kenya. This is where **Gary Brooks**, Director of Operations Branch, ADMST, was elected as a member of the International Frequency Registration Board (IFRB). The IFRB is a part of the ITU, the telecommunications agency of the United Nations.

The IFRB is responsible for international radio frequency spectrum management. It is composed of five members elected by all member-countries of the ITU, with each member coming from one of five regions of the world: Western Europe, Eastern Europe, Africa, Asia/Pacific, and the Americas. Rather than solely representing his region's interests, each member acts as custodian of an international public trust — the radio frequency spectrum.

Mr. Brooks will serve on the IFRB until the first quarter of 1989, then the next plenipotentiary conference is held. He has just recently undertaken his new and important assignment in Geneva, Switzerland.

Best wishes to Mr. Brooks in his new posting!

A word on the DOC lapel pin

Recently DOC employees received a Communications lapel pin as an added bonus to their pay cheques. Produced by Information Services, the pin is one of the department's many projects which celebrate World Communications Year.

Some employees have asked for an explanation of the symbolism behind its design.

There are two series of Cs for communications on the pin, in silver and in red. The silver Cs also represent communications waves whose source is the central Maple Leaf — symbolizing Canada and its people.

In the case that wasn't enough symbolism for you, the solid area is also a reversed C.

In December, **James Feeley** (right), Director General of Informatics Applications Management, presented a plaque to **Ralph Hutchison**, to celebrate his 25 years of service with the Federal Government. Ralph is an engineer currently working for Military Communications (DMC), at CRC.

E.A.P. means help for employees

"Working is much too hard" ("Travailler c'est trop dur"), says well-known singer Zachary Richard. This statement is all the more significant for those who experience personal or health-related problems threatening their ability to work effectively. The federal government had these people in mind when, in 1977, it established the Employee Assistance Program (E.A.P.).

This program provides counselling services as well as information and training services for managers, supervisors and other employees wishing to either solve their own problems or help solve those of other employees.

Confidentiality is an important element in the Program. Personal information cannot be released without the employee's consent and does not appear on his/her official personnel record.

There are many kinds of problems which can interfere with a person's ability to work effectively: physical illness, emotional problems, misuse of alcohol or drugs, marital or family difficulties, interpersonal relationships at work, financial stress — to name but a few.

Solving personal problems alone is not the easiest thing to do. This is where the

E.A.P. becomes useful for those who feel that they require outside help. Further information may be obtained from the DOC Program Co-ordinator, **Lorraine Croskery**, at 992-4544 in the National Capital Region or from the personnel advisors in the regional offices.

Communications Express is the new bulletin for employees of the Department of Communications. Published by Information Services, it replaces Modulation, which has been cancelled under the restraint program. Although it is thinner than Modulation, Communications Express will appear more frequently and will be six per cent livelier and five per cent more entertaining.