ship and development (BILD) program which is establishing six centres in Canada to give small- and medium-sized businesses access to new technology and management data.

The plan outlines how the microelectronics centre in Ottawa, the first centre established by BILD, can help small- and medium-sized manufacturers obtain, understand and adapt custom-made semiconductors so that they can be used to build new products.

The other centres, which are expected to be operational by the end of the year, are a robotics centre in Peterborough, a computer-aided design and computer-aided manufacturing (CAD/CAM) centre in Cambridge, a resources machinery centre in Sudbury, an auto-parts centre in St. Catharines and a farm equipment and food processing centre in Chatham.

Another rapidly-expanding high technology company in the Ottawa-Carleton area, Mitel Corporation of Kanata, unveiled a new communications system and a new product this year and signed several agreements that are expected to increase sales of the company and create many new jobs.

New communications system

According to Mitel president Mike Cowpland, the firm's sophisticated communications system, called the *SX-2000,* is the first of a family of large switching systems designed to handle both voice

The compact portable computer developed by Dynalogic Info-Tech Corporation.

and data transmissions. With the capacity to serve 150 to 10 000 telephone lines, the equipment can switch telephone calls and computer data as well as act as the core of an electronic office communications system.

Mr. Cowpland said that the equipment was two to three years ahead of products marketed by competitors and it also had the advantage of being 60 per cent smaller, both in size and power consumption, than anything of similar design.

The first field trial of the *SX-2000* began in October at the Ottawa district office of the federal government's Department of National Revenue.

Executive work station

Integrating the telephone and computing functions of the *SX-2000,* Mitel has developed an executive work station called *Kontact.* The station combines electronic mail, time management, financial planning, data communications and word processing with voice telephony and operates with any analogue telephone system. It includes a 30-centimetre video display screen, full keyboard, telephone, micro processor and data storage in a single cabinet.

Kontact is the first office product developed by Mitel using the new communications system but Mitel expects to expand the executive work system to include *Phonewriter,* a work station for administrative assistants that will have more word-processing capability, and the executive link, a micro-network designed to link *Kontact* and *Phonewriter.*

Mitel also recently signed in principle two important agreements to apply the *SX-2000* switching system: one with International Business Machines Corporation (IBM) of Armonk, New York and the other with Scientific-Atlanta Incorporated of Atlanta, Georgia.

In the first agreement, Mitel will combine the *SX-2000* voice and data switching system with IBM's data and word processing expertise and develop a new family of office automation products. The possibilities for new products are unlimited, according to Mitel chairman Terry Matthews, and IBM and Mitel expect them to be the communications heart of the office of the future. As such they would integrate many products that were previously incompatible, including: data, voice, video, electronic mail, voice and message switching, local area networks, and remote printing.

In the agreement with Scientific-Atlanta, Mitel will design, manufacture and market a satellite communications system called *Skyswitch.* The system will combine satellite and telephone/data switching technologies for business and long-distance communications. One of the features of the system will be that companies with remote branches will be able to communicate voice or data *via* satellite through "skytrunks".

Compact computer marketed

Another company in Nepean, Dynalogic Info-Tech Corporation, is also expanding rapidly and building a new plant in the

Instructor supervises student on computer at the new Control Data training centre in Ottawa.