

2.4.2 (cont'd)

- * supply direct to Telecom, again after demonstrating to AUSTEL that points requirements will be met. Existing Telecom joint ventures make this a difficult course. The supplier would probably need to demonstrate that it had a product which complemented the range already available to Telecom;
- * through an agreement or joint venture with an existing supplier already meeting the points requirement, which is supplying equipment either directly to the market and/or through Telecom.

There will be opportunities for new suppliers to Telecom, in some areas of network equipment. Transmission equipment and a range of special purpose equipment for installation, maintenance and management purposes is open to competitive tender.

There are fewer opportunities in the switching market. Northern Telecom recently won a contract to supply packet switching equipment to upgrade Telecom's Austpac network, effectively closing this area of opportunity for some time.

Also Telecom currently buys only the Ericsson AXE system for its telephone network. However, because AXE is seen to be deficient in providing centrex, intelligent network facilities and basic rate ISDN, there is a possibility that the opportunity to offer an alternative telephone switching system could arise in the near future.

3. TELEVISION IN AUSTRALIA

This part of the paper is intended to describe the present status of the television industry in Australia.

Television viewers in the major capital cities have the choice of five television channels, two national and three commercial. In other centres, viewers generally have the choice of one commercial and one national channel. These services are broadcast in the VHF and UHF bands, using the PAL system.

In addition there are a number of specialised television services in operation, or about to commence service, which use satellite and MDS transmission and which are only available to business premises.

All of these categories are described briefly below.