



MICROTEL LIMITED

■ Successful testing was carried out by the Canadian Armed Forces in 1984 on one of the first Spacotel transportable units.

Subscriber usage of the telephone network continues to increase as new or enhanced features are added by the telephone companies and by private organizations seeking to develop subscriber-based business. Examples of the latter include systems that permit a subscriber's terminal to access a remote database using the public switched network, and registration of university students using a standard touchtone phone. Another system, which is currently becoming available, is voice messaging. Using this system, subscribers will be able to store voice messages in electronic mail boxes for convenient access by the addressee.

Canadian telephone companies are preparing for the next challenge, the conversion of the network to support ISDN. Many have contributed to the international committees that are setting ISDN standards and are currently either undertaking or planning ISDN field trials. In a similar manner, Canadian equipment manufacturers are preparing their products to meet the new requirements and accommodate the new services.

In step with other advanced areas of the world, Canada introduced cellular radio into its communications system architecture in 1985. The implementation approach has been to permit two separate licensees in each area, the local telephone company and an independent company. The initial installations were in locations with populations of 100 000 or more, but expansion into other areas is now taking place. Subscribers have now surpassed 100 000 and are currently doubling in number every year.

The Advanced Mobile Phone System (AMPS) technology has been chosen as the country's standard for cellular radio. Canadians are already realizing one of the advantages of AMPS: they can use their equipment in the United States.

One of Canada's major goals in the development of its communications network has been to provide equitable service to its remote and geographically isolated rural population. This challenge was initially met by adapting standard products, such as mobile radio. From this modest beginning, Canada has developed a highly specialized industry that designs and manufactures products specifically for rural telecommunications. To support the application of these products, Canadian companies have acquired an expertise in planning, system design, and construction.