Video in the Supreme Court

A video conference service has been installed in the Supreme Court of Canada to allow the court to hear applications for leave to appeal on its semi-monthly applications days from nine cities across Canada.

The first case was heard on March 5 when two lawyers in Edmonton presented their case to three Supreme Court of Canada judges in Ottawa. "To all intents and purposes, it was just the same as if they (the lawyers) were in the courtroom," said Chief Justice Brian Dickson.

The chief justice added that video-conferencing will make it more practical for Canadians to appear before the Supreme Court. "The substantial reduction in cost achieved by video-conferencing and the convenience it offers litigants and their lawyers will improve access to the Court from all regions of the country for the critical leave granting process," he said.

The new video-conference facility is fully interactive and uses two-way, colour video and audio links. The Telecom Canada's Conference 600 service has been installed in the main courtroom of the Supreme Court and in video-conference studios in the nine Canadian cities.

Foster Parents Plan supported

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) contributed $4.4 million to the Foster Parents Plan for the 1984-85 fiscal year to help children and families living in extreme poverty in more than 22 countries in Latin America, Africa and Asia.

The Canadian government is the only national government that contributes directly to the funds of the Foster Parents Plan. It has been supporting the Plan since 1972 and the Plan also has the support of 53 000 Canadians, who are part of a large network of foster parents.

The Foster Parents Plan is using the money to finance various development projects designed to improve health and hygiene conditions by making drinking water and essential health care services more accessible. Some of the priorities include improvement in the quality of the environment, education, training and support for families.

Although the objectives of the Foster Parents Plan are designed primarily to help children in developing countries, the children are not viewed in isolation but rather as part of their family and community. As a result general support is given to families and communities in the various projects.

Space system specialty products produce prosperity

Canadian Astronautics Limited of Ottawa, Ontario has experienced continued growth in all its business areas — space, radar and communications, computer and defence systems — since it was founded in 1974 as a consulting firm by the president, Jim Taylor, and executive vice-presidents Mike Stott and Bill Cox.

The company now has the largest radar development group in Canada, and is second only to Spar Aerospace Limited among Canada's space systems companies.

The first contract obtained by Canadian Astronautics Limited was for a space-borne radar system, the forerunner of the RADARSAT system the company is currently designing for the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources to monitor Arctic ice conditions. Since that first contract, the firm has grown at an average rate of 68 per cent a year.

Paul Latour, *The Citizen* photos

John Metcalfe, a technologist with Canadian Astronautics works on satellite battery.

International marketing

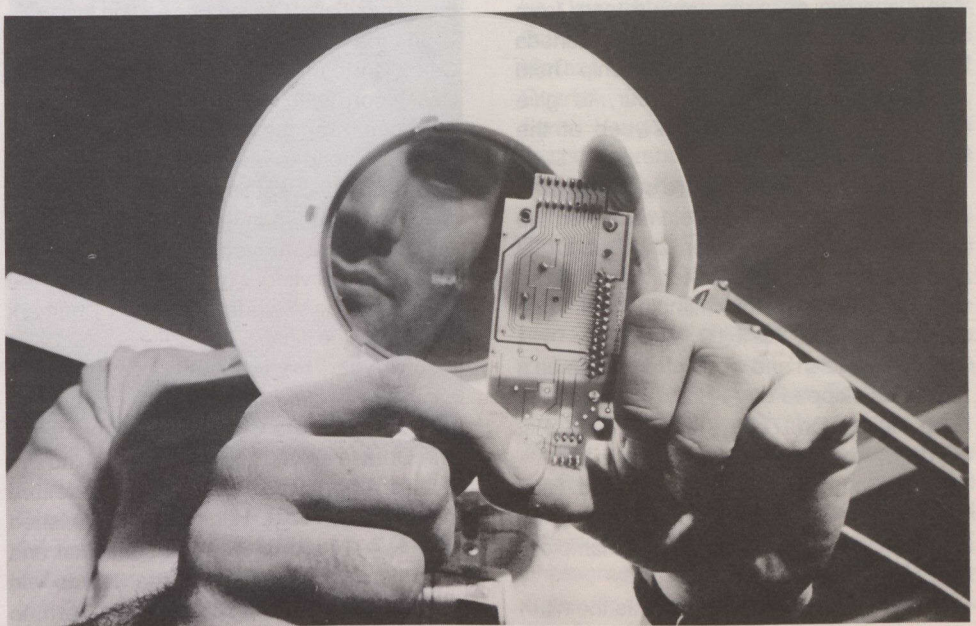
About 30 per cent of the company's business is from space systems, and recent contracts include a $2-million deal to design and build an antenna for Britain's SKYNET 4 military communications satellite.

A Canadian Astronautics system will be on board US space shuttles starting in 1988, as part of a joint project between the National Research Council and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to investigate the effects of the ionosphere on the earth's climate.

Radar and communications systems account for another 30 per cent of Canadian Astronautics revenue. Current projects in this area include a side-looking airborne radar system (SLAR), which is mounted on Arctic ice-reconnaissance planes to provide information on ice patterns and blockages to ships travelling in ice-infested waters.

The company's computer systems business, which accounts for another 15 per cent of revenue, includes the development of ground stations for search-and-rescue satellites used to locate crashed aircraft, off-course ships and people lost in the wilderness.

The company also produces defence systems, such as a tactical signal simulator (TASS) used for testing and evaluation of electronic warfare equipment.



Engineer Jim Bradley peers through a magnifying glass at a radiation sensor.