

## NAPLPS AND THE PERSONAL COMPUTER

At the outset, it appeared as though videotex and personal computer developments were evolving along separate courses. Early videotex equipment and terminals were dedicated machines, performing functions related only to the videotex medium. And there will always be the need, in many applications, for videotex-only terminals. More recently, however, there have been a series of dramatic developments which are merging the technologies of videotex with the personal computer.

## THE PERSONAL COMPUTER AS TELIDON TERMINAL

It began when the larger personal computer and component manufacturers started developing and offering hardware components which would allow personal computers to run NAPLPS videotex services. Telidon boards now exist for the Apple, the IBM PC and Commodore, and others are under development for the most popular models. These convert personal computers into Telidon – NAPLPS terminals.



With these boards, and appropriate software, the computer can retrieve any "page" of information in existing or planned videotex data banks, through a standard modem, just as a normal Telidon decoder does. And using standard peripherals, such as colour printers and plotters, hard-copy versions of the data can be generated. Even the production of 35 mm slides is possible through standard photographic peripherals. Alternatively, pages can be stored locally on the personal computer's own storage medium.