

An Oakville-based company builds towers of strength

From its headquarters in Oakville, Ontario a small company literally signals its successes world-wide — it designs, manufactures and installs communications towers.

LeBlanc & Royle Communications Inc. has sold or erected towers in 27 countries, and is the sole Canadian company producing 610-metre towers.

Two firms in the United States make these giants, but LeBlanc & Royle (L & R) is the only one with inhouse installation capabilities.

"Now we're going more into the package concept," says president George E. Patton. "This includes the tower, transmission lines, antenna and often the transmitter; the approach makes us unique in a competitive industry."

The company provides a full range of guyed and self-supporting towers, from light commercial ones for supporting mobile antennas, through medium sizes for microwave, FM radio, TV and cablevision, to heavy-duty erections of heights exceeding 300 metres.

It has a high percentage of the Canadian market including every major phone company and nearly all AM and FM radio and TV stations.

Steady growth

Since L & R started in 1962 it has grown, particularly in recent years, into a multi-million dollar multinational. Affiliated with the following companies, L & R continues to grow through diversification.



George E. Patton, president of LeBlanc & Royale Communications, Inc., joined the company as a tower rigger 20 years ago. So he has, as he says, worked his way from the top down. He became president of L & R about ten years ago.



Canada has one of the most stringent tower design specifications of any country. Computer technology is used extensively in producing the most cost-effective tower designs.

Telecom Tower Services Inc., (TTSI) of St. Louis, Missouri, is the main corporate vehicle for L & R in the US, with offices also in Pittsburgh and Phoenix. TTSI provides maintenance and emergency restoral services.

SR Telecom Inc., Montreal (formerly Farinon SR), produces high-tech microwave communications equipment used by phone companies to extend subscription networks by radio into rural areas where the economics wouldn't justify cable facilities. About 85 per cent of production is exported.

Larcam Communications Equipment Inc., Rexdale (formerly the broadcast division of CGE), makes TV and FM transmitters. It is the only Canadian high-power transmitter manufacturer with models ranging from 250 watts to 30 kilowatts. Fifty per cent of output is exported, mainly to the US. L & R has also acquired an interest in a small producer of towers in Perth, Australia. Each company is autonomous in its operation. L & R Broadcast Services Ltd. is a division providing installation of transmitters and inspection and commissioning of antennas and cables.

Export orders for the L & R group are mainly from Asia, the Middle East, Africa, the Caribbean and the United States, its largest growth market. In April the company opened a sales office in Laurel,

Maryland, to improve penetration of the package concept in the United States.

Stringent specifications

Precise planning, engineering and quality control are essential in tower-building, and Canada has one of the most stringent tower design specifications of any country. If a tower is not manufactured exactly to specification, costly delays occur during field assembly.

Says Mr. Patton: "Our engineers are constantly involved in research and we have sophisticated computer-aided design programs. Computer technology is used extensively in producing the most cost-effective designs."

(Article from Ontario Business News.)

Awards for medical research

Three Canadian doctors will be among this year's recipients of Gairdner Foundation awards for contributions to medical research. The awards, totalling \$100 000, will be presented in Toronto on October 26 by Lieutenant-Governor John Aird.

The Foundation's special \$25 000 Wightman Award, for "outstanding leadership in Canadian medicine and medical science" will be presented to Dr. Douglas G. Cameron of Montreal. He is only the fourth recipient of the award.

"It is tremendous honour," said Dr. Cameron, 67, a McGill University professor emeritus and former physician-in-chief at Montreal General Hospital. "It is the Canadian Nobel" he said.

Two other Canadian doctors have won \$15 000 prizes. Dr. Robert Noble of the University of British Columbia will receive his award for discovery of treatments for leukemia and Hodgkin's disease and Dr. Kresimir Krnjec of McGill University will obtain his for work in brain cell communication which may help in the treatment of epilepsy and Alzheimer's disease.

The other recipients of \$15 000 prizes are Dr. J. Michael Bishop and Dr. Harold E. Varmus of the University of California in San Francisco for work in linking cancer to genes; Dr. Alfred G. Gilman of the University of Texas in Dallas and Dr. Martin Rodbell of the National Institute of Health in Bethesda, Maryland for discovering how hormones contribute to some inherited bone and kidney disease; and Dr. Yuet-Wai Kan of the University of California in San Francisco for discovering genetic techniques to detect the blood disease thalassemia, common in the Mediterranean, Southeast Asia and Africa.