

COMPANY OVERVIEW

Videoway is a Canadian corporation recently formed to manufacture and market an advanced home information system.

EXPERIENCE

Early Videoway decoders have been field-tested by several of the operating companies within the Vidéotron group. Planning began in 1982 for installation of decoders within the Vidéotron network. Recently Videoway announced that system planning has begun for networks in the U.S., Europe and Australia.

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

Videoway provides an evolutionary path towards a fully integrated home information system serving the diverse requirements of the network provider, the service provider and the information provider.

At the network level, Videoway can design and deliver a one- or two-way broadband telecommunication network or network addition. The network can be designed to incorporate existing coaxial cable and microwave links, augmented by fibre optics and satellite broadcasting systems where required. The network will be optimized for use with the Videoway Cable Network Centre and Home Interface Unit.

The needs of the service provider are easily met with standard or customized

system software that provides down loaded features to the Home Interface Unit. These services include:

- The transmission of stereo radio and cable TV channels.
- Selective distribution of special services, including Pay TV, news headlines, weather and sports information through cable TV channels.
- High-speed, full-channel selective videotex services with a 20,000 page NAPLPS database. The user interactively controls page access.
- Two-way communication for transactions, pay-per-view television, monitoring systems and interactive applications.

For the information provider, full use can be made of the two-way nature of the system with the addition of teletransaction facilities such as telemetering, teleshopping and electronic mail. Specialized software interfaces can be created to allow the provision of services that operate in conjunction with information providers' current order entry and information retrieval systems. This result is a clearly defined evolution into the field of services to the home.

The Videoway decoder is a small, practical unit equipped with an infrared hand-held control module. The unit provides the following functions:

- Channel selection for the usual cable TV services.
- Television fine tuning, volume and power control.

- Access to a menu of selective information sources, including Pay TV, external databases, captioning and other electronic services.
 - Access to an internal 20,000-page NAPLPS database, a subset of a master database of up to 5,000,000 pages. The local database can be changed in whole, or in part, at any time by the cable operator.
 - A small local network which interconnects various peripherals, including videotape recorder, personal computer printer, disk drives, etc., and provides access to an electronic user's manual.
 - Access to the electronic down loading of video and audio cassettes as well as computer software for home computers and video game consoles.
- Options allow for:
- Greater keyboard functionality
 - Two-way analog and digital communication
 - Fire and theft prevention monitoring
 - Energy management

FUTURE DIRECTIONS/ TARGET MARKETS

The potential market for Videoway is the worldwide cable TV market — estimated to be 50 million homes for North America alone. This market will increase as home computing and computer-aided instruction become widely used.

Firm orders have already been received for more than 100,000 units by mid-1984 and estimates place 1985 production at between 250,000 and 500,000 units.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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