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Mitel Corporation will display a wide range of products at Telecom 83, from sets to systems, to management workstations.

through an international competition, as the prime contractor to provide two communications satellites to the government of Brazil for their domestic satellite system. This \$150-million contract includes the ground control stations.

## **Digital excellence**

In the early 1970s, Northern Telecom, in co-operation with Bell Northern



Teleglobe Canada's satellite earth station in Weir, Quebec, is one of more than 100 Canadian-made earth stations.

Research and Bell Canada, began developing digital switching and transmission systems. Northern Telecom was the first in the world to produce a complete family of fully digital switching and transmission systems.

(Previously, analogue systems had been used, but the increasing use of computers and "machine" communications dictated that digital signalling be used. In analogue transmission, signals are amplified; in digital transmission they are regenerated.)

Digital is now shaping the whole telecommunications industry. Canadian digital PABX equipment has won wide acceptance in international markets and two Canadian manufacturers of digital PABX's (Northern Telecom and Mitel) are among world leaders in this product.

### The electronic office

Like other western countries Canada is in the midst of an information revolution and, in 1980, the federal government initiated field trials of integrated electronic office systems within its departments. The aim was also to develop services for national and international markets. About \$12 million has been budgeted for the project which will run until 1985.

Some 5 000 work stations used by professional and executive employees will

be established across Canada and they should make Canadians more aware of the potential of electronic office products, systems and services.

#### World's first teletext

In February 1983, Teleglobe Canada, a Crown company responsible for Canada's external communications services, announced it had inaugurated the world's first overseas teletext service, making it possible to transmit a business letter from Canada to West Germany in ten seconds. Teletext is a new service using computer terminals and transmitting data in digital form. Canada, West Germany and Sweden are the first countries to adopt the new system.

## **Fibre optics**

Technology relating to fibre optics (optical fibres that carry light instead of electricity) has been used in Canada since 1976. A wide variety of field trials have been introduced throughout the country – from trunk to subscriber loop applications – where homes receive simultaneous transmission of telephony, data, television and videotex.



Northern Telecom's displayphone, on exhibit at Telecom 83, is a highly advanced office product that allows integrated voice and data communications to be handled in one desk-top unit. It was the world's first commercial combined business telephone and data terminal. It is capable of transmitting, receiving and displaying information using a retractable keyboard and a video display screen.