

little larger than a briefcase. It was designed to be carried easily into manholes, onto aerial platforms, and to other field locations where optical fibre cables, used in advanced telecommunications systems, are spliced. It is being manufactured and marketed by Northern Telecom Canada Limited.

Fibre optic telecommunications systems use a light source, such as a laser, which is turned on and off several hundred million times a second, to transmit voice, data, or image communications signals through glass fibres.

*Northern Telecom PLC
Berkeley Square House
Berkeley Square
London W1X 5LE*

Communications

Spacetel satellite system begins field trials

Canada's communications minister, Marcel Masse, has announced the start of a six-month field trial of Spacetel, a Canadian-developed satellite communications system.

The trial is being conducted by the branch of the Department of Communications (DOC) responsible for provision of telecommunications networks and services for the federal government.

'The field trial will explore ways in which the federal government can use innovative satellite communications technology such as Spacetel to provide extensive, cost-effective telecommunications services' says Masse. He adds that Spacetel is not only 'a promising means to extend high-quality telephone services to underserved areas, but it can also be used to provide private voice and data network services for business'.

Spacetel was developed by Microtel Limited of Burnaby, British Columbia. It allows a person in a remote area to instantly receive a dial tone from the telephone network in an urban centre.

With Spacetel, a portable earth terminal sends a signal to the 14/12 GHz *Anik C* satellite in geostationary orbit 36 000 kilometres above the equator. The satellite then relays the signal

to a central control station, where the call is linked automatically with the national telephone system. The whole process takes only a fraction of a second.

The field trial will test delivery via Spacetel of a variety of voice and data telecommunications services to government installations, ranging from unmanned lighthouses and a remote weather-monitoring station to an air traffic control centre. Microtel is providing the Spacetel terminals for the field trial.

The first segment of the field trial will connect four terminals in eastern Canada with a central control station at DOC's Communications Research Centre at Shirley Bay, west of Ottawa. Terminals will be located at unmanned coast guard lighthouses in Point Petre and Nine-Mile Point, Ontario; the Transport Canada air traffic control centre in Riverview, New Brunswick; and DOC headquarters in Ottawa.

In the second part of the field trial, a Spacetel terminal will provide telephone service between government offices in Prince George and Vancouver, British Columbia.

Another terminal will transmit two-way voice and data communications from Environment Canada's Atmospheric Environment Service monitoring station in the Queen Charlotte Islands.
*Microtel Ltd
7018 Lougheed Highway
Burnaby
British Columbia V5A 1W3*

Culture

Canada, UK extend films co-production agreement

Canada and the UK have formally extended their film co-production agreement. The agreement will now include all forms of video tape, as well as film productions, regardless of format, length or topic, including animation and documentary projects.

In making the announcement, Canada's Communications Minister, Marcel Masse said that 'the agreement will benefit both the UK and Canada, because it will stimulate the productivity of

the industry by offering new venues to independent productions that would not otherwise have been possible.

Canada-UK co-productions will gain from the additional sources of finance that are available through the Canadian Broadcast Program Development Fund, which was established in July, 1983, with a budget of \$254 million over a five-year period.

The broadcast fund is administered by Telefilm Canada. It was originally set up to allow Telefilm to invest up to 33.3% of the Canadian participation of the production, but it has since been broadened to allow Telefilm to invest up to 49%, provided that the Canadian producers meet Telefilm's parameters.

Both UK and Canadian productions under the official banner will reap any local advantages, such as capital cost allowances, tax incentives and other marketing support programmes.

The shift to made-for-television features and mini-series is a major area of growth, Masse said. The market possibilities are extremely promising, and many recent Canadian productions have been distributed in the United States through broadcasters such as PBS and Disney Channel.

'Our country looks forward to future co-productions with the UK in this field, because our partnership is vital to the expansion of international opportunities for quality English language programme,' Masse said.

People

Canadians win acclaim for fight against adversity

In March, 1977, Terry Fox had his right leg amputated because of cancer, but decided that he would 'meet this new challenge head on, and not only overcome my disability, but conquer it in such a way that I could never look back and say it disabled me.' Three years later his 'Marathon of Hope' was the result.

Setting out from Newfoundland, Terry planned to run across Canada, covering at least 20 miles a day, collecting money for cancer research as he went. But in Thunder Bay — half-way across the

country — doctors diagnosed that cancer had spread to his lungs and he had to abandon his run. Nine months later he was dead, having raised more than \$20 million for charity.

The spirit of Terry Fox captured the Canadian imaginations and his Marathon of Hope will be remembered for years to come. So, too, will the efforts of three other Canadians who have battled against adversity to international acclaim.

Steve Fonyo, for instance, had a leg amputated because of cancer, and like Terry Fox, he set out on a trans-Canada run. Despite the winter hazards of the prairies, the threat of pneumonia, frostbite, and heart strain, he completed his 5000-mile marathon in 425 days.

Richard Beecroft, a multiple sclerosis sufferer for 14 years, is now travelling the world on a tricycle in order to create a greater public awareness of the disease and to inspire other sufferers.

Another handicapped Canadian with an almost-impossible mission is Rick Hansen, who left Vancouver on March 21st in an effort to become the first wheelchair marathoner to wheel his way around the world. Hansen will travel to six continents and 34 countries, including the Soviet Union, and plans to end his tour at the gates of Expo 86 in Vancouver in September next year.



A London welcome for Rick Hansen from (L to R) Ted Allen, UK Commissioner General for Expo 86, Roy McMurtry, Canadian High Commissioner, and Linda Chalker, Minister of Transport.

Hansen, a wheelchair athlete who has won 19 international marathons and who was awarded nine gold medals at the 1982 Pan Am Games, is out to initiate a worldwide fund for spinal cord research, rehabilitation and wheelchair sport.