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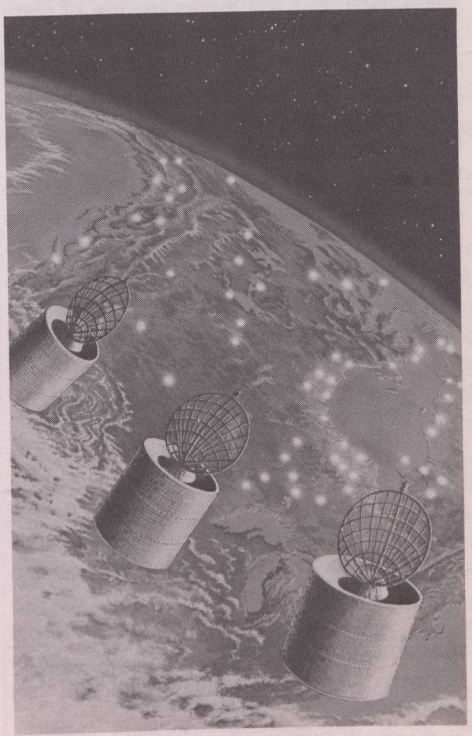
Geneva Telecom 83 — a chance for Canada to shine

Canadian companies will have the opportunity to seal their top reputation as leaders in the field of communications at the fourth World Telecommunications Exhibition — Telecom 83 — to be held at the Palais des Expositions et des Congrès in Geneva, Switzerland from October 26 to November 1. The show, held every four years, is considered to be the most prestigious international exhibition in telecommunications and electronics, attracting important visitors and buyers from many parts of the world.

Canadian capabilities, products and services, which have already earned international recognition for excellence, will be represented by some 25 companies covering a wide range of goods and services.

It is not surprising that Canada has risen to the forefront of the communications industry. With a country so vast — some 9 980 000 square kilometres and a widely dispersed population — the development of an efficient communications network became increasingly important.



Artist's impression of Canada's Anik *communications satellites.*

Canada had an early start in telecommunications. Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone in Canada in 1874; two years later the world's first long distance telephone call took place.

Today, with a population of almost 25 million, Canada has 14 million telephones in service and the fourth highest telephone density in the world. In the interest of even greater reliability and increased operating economies, the system is being rapidly converted to the digital mode.

Canada in space

Telesat Canada was formed in 1969 to establish and operate a commercial system of satellite communications to serve all parts of Canada. *Anik A-1,* the world's first domestic satellite system, launched in 1972, could provide services to 10 million square kilometres. Similar satellites were launched in 1973, 1975, 1978, and the most recent, *Anik C-3* in November 1982.

There are now more than 100 Canadian manufactured satellite earth stations of about 14 types and sizes, ranging from large stations with 30-metre antennas to small transportable stations down to 1.2 metres. These provide such services as global television relay with local-area television distribution, telephone, computer-data transfer, and teletype.

Telesat Canada, with its extensive background, also provides consulting services to a number of countries.

Spar Aerospace, the Toronto-based firm that built the highly successful mechanical arm for the United States' space shuttle, recently signed a $65-million contract to build solar energy panels for the *L-Sat,* a 50-metre long new generation communications satellite being built by three members of the European Space Agency for a 1986 launch.

Spar Aerospace was also selected

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