



Electrohome's EGT 100 NAPLPS TV set adapter, with a built-in decoder and detachable keyboard. The unit operates with any television set to receive and display videotex information using a normal telephone line.

unveiled a prototype of a slick, small, TV-top terminal which, like cordless TV channel selectors, uses an infra-red light beam to signal from keypad to computer. The firm expects the \$1 000-Telidon terminal to be available later this year.

The Bank of Montreal has developed a home-banking service to be offered over Infomart's Grassroots system which has 14 000 subscribers in southern Manitoba and has been expanded into Ontario. Cablesare of London, Ontario will supply its Microtex terminals which combine videodisc technology with touch-sensitive videotex screens and full colour graphics.

Following the resounding success of Infomart's Grassroots, an agreement to launch a similar service throughout the US is now being worked out between Videotex America, Infomart's US partner, Agway Inc., Cenex (Farmers Union Central Exchange, Inc.) and Southern States Cooperative, Inc.

Agricultural videotex

This month, a new agricultural videotex service, AgriData/AgriStar Service, will begin operating in Canada. Developed by AgriData Resources Inc. of Maryland, the NAPLPS service will be marketed in Canada through Radio Shack. Sign-up costs are \$249.95 for six months, with additional on-line charges of \$30 an hour.

Mitsui & Co. Ltd., Japan's largest trading company, demonstrated its far-reaching commitment to Telidon and announced an agreement with Ottawa's Microtaure Inc. to market Canadian pro-

ducts in Japan and Southeast Asia. The agreement gives Mitsui exclusive rights to the distribution of Microtaure's Teligraph videotex software package for microcomputers. The announcement follows agreements between Mitsui and Infomart and the Genesys Group to provide software and applications for demonstration, applications development and marketing purposes. Norpak Corp. of Kanata, Ontario will provide hardware and equipment, including computer graphics services.

Electrohome Ltd. of Kitchener, Ontario unveiled its EGT 100 NAPLPS TV set adapter, with a built-in decoder and

detachable keyboard. The unit operates with any television set to receive and display videotex information using a normal telephone line and contains up to 32K (32 000 characters) of memory. Priced at \$850, the EGT 100 compares favourably with American Bell's Sceptre terminal which boasts similar characteristics and sells for \$1 100.

Norpak deal

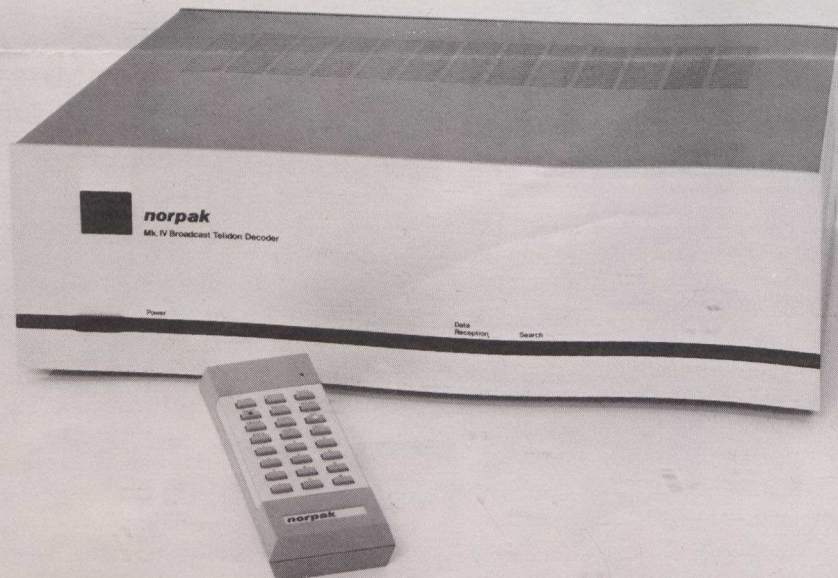
Norpak Corp. announced the signing of a major deal with RCA Service Co. to provide service and installation for the Canadian company's products throughout the US.

Norpak almost eclipsed its own announcement with an even bigger deal, a joint development venture with Rockwell International of Newport Beach, California. The fast-growing Canadian company and the giant US space and defence contractor will co-operate in designing and building computer chips and boards for videotex and teletext equipment. Norpak has become North America's leading manufacturer of videotex decoders and information frame-creation systems.

Videotex and microcomputers merge

The most visible trend at Videotex '83 was the acceleration of the merger between videotex and microcomputing. Competition to develop low-cost videotex software packages for mass market microcomputers is steep and so far, the most impressive announcements are being made by Canadian companies.

Avcor of Toronto demonstrated a soft-



Norpak's broadcast teletext decoder. Currently CBC, CBS, NBC and Time Inc. offer teletext services that can all be displayed on Norpak teletext decoders.