

## European satellite contract

Spar Aerospace Limited, the Toronto-based firm that built the highly successful arm for the US space shuttle, has signed a \$65-million contract to help build a new European satellite.

Spar will build solar array and signal amplifiers for the L-Sat, a 50-metre long, new-generation communications satellite being built by the European Space Agency (ESA). The Canadian company will also handle assembly, integration and testing of the spacecraft under the contract signed with British Aerospace PLC, the prime contractor.

At the signing ceremony, Spar chairman Larry Clarke said the contract will create 1 200 man-years of work at Spar plants in the Montreal, Toronto and Ottawa regions.

### Total value

The L-Sat is the largest project of the European Space Agency so far, with a total value of about \$600 million. British Aerospace is teamed with Selenia Industrie Elettronich SpA and Aeritalia of Italy, Fokker NV of the Netherlands and Spar to launch the satellite by 1986.

Peter Hickman of British Aerospace said Spar's contribution to the project will be about 11 per cent, with the balance to be done in Europe.

The satellite will weigh more than 2 000 kilograms. The solar panels being built by Spar will generate up to seven kilowatts of power. At launch in 1986, they will fit into containers only 200 millimetres thick, stretching out to 50 metres, or half the length of a football field, when they are deployed in space about 36 000 kilometres over the equator.

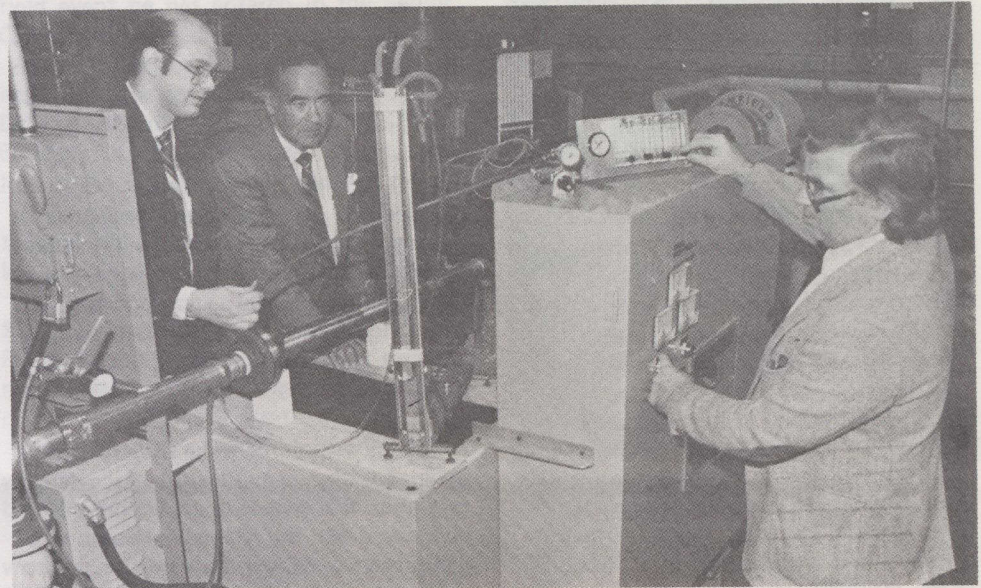
The L-Sat will be used for TV communications, high-density telecommunications, voice, data and video links to small earth stations and high-capacity, inter-city telecommunications services.

### Largest effort

Spar's participation in the program is its largest effort in satellite communications since it won a \$170-million order early this year to supply satellites to Brazil, with options to buy two more for \$50 million each.

The federal Department of Communications has awarded Spar an \$8.5-million contract for studies on an M-Sat satellite designed to improve mobile communications services.

## College sets up centre for industrial research



Director of Ryerson's Centre for Industrial Development Harry Rosier (centre) watches technologists Jerry Karpynczyk (left) and Robert Pope run tests on Kenics mixer.

A new centre for industrial development at Toronto's Ryerson Polytechnical Institute has become one of the largest consulting services in Canada.

Drawing on over 600 faculty members in dozens of different disciplines, the centre conducts a wide range of research projects for the private sector and for government.

Projects undertaken by the centre since it was established in June 1982 include product and equipment tests, computer software design and nutritional research. But the scope of potential activity is as wide as the expertise of Ryerson's faculty, which ranges from management consulting, technological assessment, chemical testing and energy conservation to architecture and landscape project planning, audio-visual program development, marketing studies, financial analysis and production efficiency.

Director Harry Rosier was selected to run the new centre just six months after his retirement as vice-chairman of Abitibi-Price Incorporated. He assesses all project proposals, speaks to department heads about appropriate staff to handle them and then oversees the work to ensure it is conducted in a businesslike way.

"The private sector requires all the help it can get in these recessionary and increasingly competitive times and we can provide it at a much lower cost than other consulting services," said Mr. Rosier.

No job is too big or too small for the centre which establishes the fee for a

project through discussion between the client and Mr. Rosier. So far, project costs to the client have ranged from \$215 to \$175 000.

### Provincial funding

The centre, established with a \$100 000 grant from the Ontario Ministry of Industry and Trade, not only acts as a resource for industry and government, but provides significant benefits to Ryerson's staff and students. It keeps them in tune with the problems and opportunities of the marketplace and ensures that students develop research skills applicable to industry and government.

"Our target is to involve between 10 and 20 per cent of the faculty in projects for the centre and this could easily result in 500 to 1 000 students receiving hands-on research experience annually," said Ryerson president Brian Segal.

A management board has been appointed to help shape the centre's over-all direction, to ensure that all projects fall within its stated mandate and to determine that all funds are used according to established criteria. Although the centre has only been open for eight months, it has already done work for 11 companies and government ministries and it is negotiating with 13 others.

The centre invites approaches from prospective clients by letter, telephone call or personal visit to its offices in Jorgensen Hall, Ryerson Polytechnical Institute, 50 Gould Street, Toronto M5B 1E8, Canada.