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Flight information display systems

■ NEI Ferranti-Packard Electronics offers standard or custom-designed passenger information display systems for use in airports, train stations and bus terminals. These information display systems are used to provide the travelling public, as well as meeters and greeters, with arrival/departure information, baggage claim information and the status of delayed or cancelled flights, trains or buses. The information is usually displayed at check-in counters, concourses, gate counters and baggage claim areas. The information display system may consist of any one, or a combination of, display technologies such as Reflective Disk Display Boards, television monitors, Light Emitting Diode (LED) or Liquid Crystal (LCD) technology. The complete display system is controlled and operated by the Ferranti-Packard TDS-200 Passenger Information Control System.

In addition, NEI Ferranti-Packard Electronics offers a wide range of dynamic signage for use on approaching roadways, parking garages and ramp side terminal operations.

TDS 200 information display control system
The TDS-200 is a mini computer with the interface and display generator accessories necessary for a particular system configuration. It is designed for those applications in small- to medium-transportation terminals with up to 150 operations per day.

The permanent data base in the TDS-200 contains the weekly schedule of the terminal or airline and will normally consist of the following information: flight/train/bus number; days of the week operating; time of arrival or departures; origin or destination with intermediate stops; standard remarks; gate or platform information; baggage claim area allocation; system operating information such as type of aircraft, toil number, catering requirements, as well as passenger and fuel loads.

The temporary data base in the TDS-200 is a file of up to 150 daily entries obtained from the Permanent Data Base and which are scheduled to take place during the next three days. This file forms the data base for generating the information to be displayed on the various displays located throughout the terminal. This Temporary Data Base can be edited and updated by the regular system operator, to show additional remarks, actual arrival and departure times and gate or baggage claim information.

Reflective disk display boards
NEI Ferranti-Packard Electronics pioneered the design and development of electro-magnetic light reflecting disk display technology and is now the major supplier of this technology in the world. Each disk has a coloured and dark side with a small permanent magnet located in the centre between them. The disks are arranged in a matrix of 5 columns of 7 disks to form a module. Each disk is mounted between two reversible permanent magnets and depending on the polarization of these permanent magnets, the disk will display either the coloured or dark side and the arrangement of the sides of the disks will then determine the character or number displayed. The advantages of light reflecting disk technology are:
- highly visible even in bright sunlight
- power is required only to operate the disk
- wide viewing angle
- information is retained during power failures.

Ramp information signage
The Ferranti-Packard ramp information display system is designed to provide ramp service personnel with the most up-to-date information on the status of a particular flight, aircraft or gate change. With this latest information available to them, ramp service personnel are able to ensure that delivery and loading of originating and connecting baggage, mail, freight and meal services are made to the correct gate and aircraft. The ramp information display system consists of variable message signs located at each gate in a highly visible location. Each sign consists of a rear-lit gate indentification number and two lines of mes-

sage text, using the patented, highly reliable Ferranti-Packard display reflective disk technology. The system has been installed for American Airlines at the following airports: Dallas/Fort Worth, Raleigh-Durham, Nashville; and Chicago (1988).

Company Profile
NEI Ferranti-Packard Electronics is a member of the NEI CANADA LTD. group of companies, which in turn is a subsidiary of NEI plc, a British electrical/mechanical engineering group.

NEI Ferranti-Packard Electronics is primarily engaged in the design and manufacture of electro-magnetic Reflective Disk Display Components and Systems. It maintains an ongoing research and development program to tailor products to specific customer requirements and to benefit from the latest advances in electronics and display technology.

The company has offices in several North American cities, Zurich, Switzerland, and Bristol, United Kingdom. It markets its products worldwide through a network of direct sales personnel, distributors, representatives and agents. It also operates an International Service Group which installs and services the company's products worldwide.

NEI Ferranti-Packard Electronics Passenger Information Display Systems have been installed in the following locations: Cuenca, Ecuador; Buenos Aires, Argentina (Cordoba); Buenos Aires, Argentina (Jorge Newberg); Queen Alia, Amman, Jordan; Toronto International, Toronto, Canada; Mexico City, Mexico; Union Station, Toronto, Canada (1988); VIA Rail, Toronto (1988); GO Transit, Toronto (1988); Jose Marti, Havana, Cuba; Jose Marti II, Havana, Cuba (1988).

Departure board at Mexico City
International Airport