

to start at the end of 1981 and will include 200 terminals to be installed in homes in Los Angeles and Orange Counties. The Los Angeles Times and other publishing subsidiaries of Times Mirror are expected to be major information providers. A unique aspect of the Times Mirror videotex system is that it will operate simultaneously over both telephone and two-way cable networks.

Also in February, the American firm Time Inc. (publisher of seven magazines - Time, Life, Fortune, Sports Illustrated, Money, People and Discover - as well as the Washington Star) decided to launch a test of the first national multichannel teletext service designed for general in-home use in the United States. The teletext service, which will utilize the TELIDON format, will deliver a variety of textual and graphic information for the selection of television viewers. This new service will be provided via satellite. It will begin operation towards the end of 1981 with a 24 hours a day, seven days a week programming schedule.

Teleglobe Canada has also decided to use TELIDON in a major international data base project, with a total estimated cost of 4.1 million dollars. The Teleglobe data base is expected to have up to 100,000 "pages". The project is scheduled to start in mid-1981 and will provide services via terminals distributed throughout the world. Users of the Teleglobe data base will have access to a wide variety of high-quality textual and graphic information using interactive video terminals and normal telecommunications channels.

Some readers may already be aware that TELIDON has been chosen by the Venezuelan Government for a public information service in which terminals are placed in various locations throughout the city of Caracas. It is also now being used in a project undertaken by the "Alternate Media Centre" at the New York University and being broadcast from PBS television station WETA in Washington D.C.. Among the users of that project are the Smithsonian Institute, the D.C. public library and several Government agencies. In addition, TELIDON has been included in several cable franchises recently awarded in the U.S. to joint American-Canadian ventures.

In all these instances, TELIDON has been chosen for its greater capabilities and flexibility than first generation systems. For example, it has a more advanced graphics capability than other videotex systems. Pages of information can also be sent from computer data banks to remote terminals with an efficiency and economy unmatched by its competitors.

Since the development of TELIDON was first announced in August 1978, the Canadian Government has committed \$ 12.6 million to the programme and Canadian industry has committed four times this amount. Recently the Government announced that it would inject a massive \$ 27.5 million increase into the programme. The increase of Government funding will be used for the following activities:

- the manufacture of about 6,000 TELIDON terminals over the next year to be loaned to industrial concerns for the start of operational systems or the conduct of market trials, subject to their purchase of at least an equal number and to the advantages offered in their proposals for employment of the terminals;
- product research and development to further develop TELIDON technology, reduce its price and expand its capabilities.