

Telesat wins U.S. contract

Telesat Canada has announced the largest service contract between the company and a United States customer.

The contract between Telesat and GTE Satellite Corporation of Stamford, Connecticut is one of the largest such contracts ever entered into by the company.

The agreement, with a potential value of more than \$50 million, calls for the services of ten channels in the 14/12 gigahertz frequency band on Telesat's *Anik C* satellites. The services will begin on eight channels on *Anik C1* in January 1983. Two additional channels will be added following the entry into service of *Anik C2* and will continue until July 1984 with an option to extend the agreement to December 1984.

At the end of the contract period the GTE Satellite services carried on Telesat's *Anik C* satellites will be transferred to the U.S. company's first G-STAR satellite which is scheduled to be launched in July 1984.

The contract signed with GTE Satellite Corporation is the second major service agreement signed with a U.S. customer since December when Telesat agreed to provide 6/4 gigahertz services on six *Anik* channels for Argo Communications Incorporated of New Rochelle, N.Y. The Argo services will begin when *Anik D1* begins commercial operations in the fall of 1982 and will continue until December 1984.

Government approval

Both GTE Satellite Corporation and Argo Communications Incorporated services are for U.S. to U.S. services and must receive the approval of the governments of Canada and the U.S. and of the U.S. telecommunications regulator, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The principle of providing interim domestic satellite service in one country using the satellites of the other was established in 1972 in an exchange of letters between the governments of the two countries. The letters outlined the conditions under which such services could be considered.

The Telesat channel services provided to GTE Satellite Corporation will be made available to United States Television (USTV) of New York which will use them to distribute new premium and Pay-television services to U.S. customers.

USTV plans to use the *Anik C* channels to distribute Pay-TV and other broadcast



Anik D1 is now undergoing its final integrated system testing at the David Florida Laboratory of the Department of Communications near Ottawa. The \$30-million satellite, which will provide 24 channels at 6/4 gigahertz, is due for launch aboard a U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration Delta rocket from Cape Canaveral, Florida next August. Two Anik Ds are being built for Telesat by Canadian prime contractor Spar Aerospace of Toronto.

services to multiple dwelling units such as apartments and condominiums, hotels, motels and to cable companies, which will receive the signals using individual dish antennas as small as 1.2 metre in diameter. USTV estimates its subscriber bases will reach up to 200 000 in the first year of operation, growing to a total of more than 2.5 million subscribers by the end of the fifth year of service.

Although the *Anik C* satellites, which were designed for Canadian service, do not have the capability to provide nationwide coverage in the U.S., they do include the densely populated U.S. northeast as far south as Atlanta, Georgia and the states of the Pacific northwest as far south as Denver, Colorado.

The remaining southern and southwestern states will be added to the company's systems when the services are transferred to the U.S. G-STAR satellite by the beginning of 1985.

Australian contract

Telesat Canada also recently signed an agreement to provide consulting services to Australia's satellite agency that has scheduled the launch of its first three

satellites in 1985.

Telesat was awarded a \$100 000 contract by Aussat Proprietary Limited of Australia to aid in technology transfer, design and testing of the satellite system. The contract is the first step in a deal expected to be worth several million dollars over three years.

The satellites, each valued at between \$20 million and \$40 million, are being built by Hughes Aircraft Company of Los Angeles. Spar Aerospace Limited of Toronto is a subcontractor to Hughes in the project.

Service to ships and rigs

In a separate development, Teleglobe Canada has signed an agreement with the International Maritime Satellite Organization (Inmarsat) which is offering full satellite telecommunication services to the shipping industry and to rigs engaged in oil and gas exploration and production.

Teleglobe Canada will provide communications between sea-going vessels and the Canadian mainland.

Inmarsat was established in 1979 to develop maritime satellite communications and has 37 member companies.

Teleglobe's involvement in Inmarsat is expected to result in reduced rates for Canadian users of maritime telephone and Telex services.

Contribution to food reserve

Canada will contribute \$6.5 million to the International Emergency Food Reserve in 1982, Agriculture Minister Eugene Whelan has announced.

The figure is an increase of \$1 million over last year's contribution to the emergency reserve which is administered by the World Food Program. The contribution covers the purchase and transportation of Canadian wheat or other grains and will help the World Food Program deal with emergency food crises in developing the nations.

In making the announcement, Mr. Whelan said that a "strong commitment to food security is also a part of Canada's foreign policy. We believe that food security is the prerequisite to political security and stability".

On the same subject Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau announced several months ago that in the next five years Canada will devote 45 per cent of its official development assistance to food security and agricultural production.