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Telidon projects proving successful in Australia and at home

Canada's two-way television technology, Telidon, received its first public demonstration in Australia, while a number of organizations have been given grants by the Canadian government for developing the system across Canada.

Telidon is the two-way television and computer communications system developed by researchers at the Department of Communications in 1978 and is considered one of the most advanced technologies of its kind.

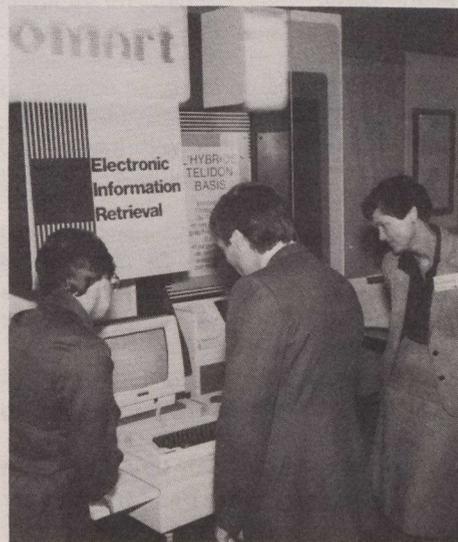
The first public demonstration of Videonet, a Telidon system developed by the Myer Emporium Limited of Melbourne, was given at the "Technology in the World of Travel and Tourism" symposium held in Sydney.

The system, which will be shown throughout Australia, will begin commercial operations in the near future. Videonet will use Telidon technology to provide business information and communications services to subscribers in Australia and other parts of the South Pacific.

Glen Davis, general manager of Videonet said the Myer system was "based on the best available technology in the world and is ideally suited to meet the information needs of users, information providers and advertisers". He said the tourism industry in Australia had been one of the first to appreciate the value of videotex and for this reason the tourism symposium was chosen for the unveiling of the system. The demonstration system will be shown to many other industry groups in coming months.

The demonstration of Videonet is evidence of Myer's commitment to the introduction of videotex in Australia, said Mr. Davis. "The quality of the system we have chosen after world-wide comparison will also become apparent during these demonstrations," he said.

Information providers for the Sydney demonstration included leading airlines, travel agents, resort operators and travel publishers. The superior display capability of the Videonet system offers a



Visitors view Telidon system being used in Manitoba as part of the Manitoba Telephone System's "Grassroots" project.

timely new medium for advertisers who want to display relevant information to customers who are making tour and travel decisions, said Mr. Davis.

The Videonet demonstration system was organized and developed by Systemhouse Limited of Ottawa. Other Canadian firms participating in the project included A.E.L. Microtel Limited of Burnaby, British Columbia; Dominion Directories Limited of Vancouver and Infomart of Toronto. The Canadian companies provided equipment on loan, software, personnel training and consulting services in data base design, system design and page creation. Some members of the Videotex Information Service Providers Association of Canada also donated pages to Videonet for demonstration purposes.

Canadian projects boosted

In Canada, the federal government has announced support for a number of projects to develop Telidon services. The funds are being provided under the Telidon industry investment stimulation program (IISP) to help the organizations buy terminals for

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