

COMPANY OVERVIEW

Viscount Industries was incorporated in March 1973 and is a wholly-owned subsidiary of AEL Microtel Limited.

Viscount Industries designs, develops, manufactures and markets video switching equipment, specialized telephone testing products, and Microtel's fully-integrated NAPLPS business terminal. It also provides customers with customized manufacturing capabilities.

Over the years, Viscount Industries Ltd. has developed considerable expertise in various areas such as specialty telephone test equipment, video equipment and custom manufacturing for other companies. More than fifty different items are produced, ranging from small mass-produced items to high-technology and microprocessor-based equipment.

EXPERIENCE

Viscount's activities cover a wide range of customers such as:

- Major telephone operating companies
- Broadcasters
- Cable companies
- Educational institutions
- Videotex systems operators
- Videotex closed-user groups

Major customers/applications for Microtel terminals in the last three years have been:

- Infomart: public information retrieval terminals (Teleguide System) installed by the Province of Ontario; business applications.

- Faxtel: stock market charting.
- Cablesare: Videopress; public information retrieval terminals.
- Federal Government: public information retrieval terminals; database enquiring.
- B.C. Telephone Company: public information retrieval systems.
- Bell Canada: messaging; database enquiring.

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

Telephone Equipment: Design, development, manufacturing and marketing of equipment related to the telephone industry. This activity includes only proprietary equipment designed by Viscount. It is currently limited to some specialty telephone test equipment such as outlet testers, subscriber line testers, card testers and call simulators.

Video Equipment: Manufacturing and marketing of video programming and switching equipment. This activity includes only proprietary equipment designed by Viscount and sold to a wide variety of institutions ranging from broadcasters and cablecasters to schools and universities. Sales are made through an established network of distributors.

Contract Manufacturing: Production and assembly of electronic equipment and circuitry, not proprietary to Viscount Industries. Although this activity often necessitates some engineering, the product is mostly designed by the customer and contracted to Viscount for manufacturing.

NAPLPS Terminals: Manufacturing and marketing of Microtel's fully-integrated terminal (designed by Microtel Pacific Research, Microtel's research arm).

The VTX 208, Microtel's third generation integrated terminal, can be used in videotex information systems, in computer graphics applications and as a standard computer terminal.

The VTX 208 interprets NAPLPS Picture Description Instructions (PDIs) to display graphic and alphanumeric information in up to 16 colours from a palette of 4,096 different shades.

Using NAPLPS, the terminal shows the superb quality of the videotex display. It has an attractive desk-top design, with innovative details such as keyboard programmable baud rate and parity, smooth scrolling and front-mounted brightness control.

Users operate the terminal and access various host computers from a full keyboard capable of generating all ASCII codes, as well as user-definable special functions. Also built into the terminal are a comprehensive series of self-test diagnostics and test patterns to minimize the effort required for maintenance and servicing.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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