

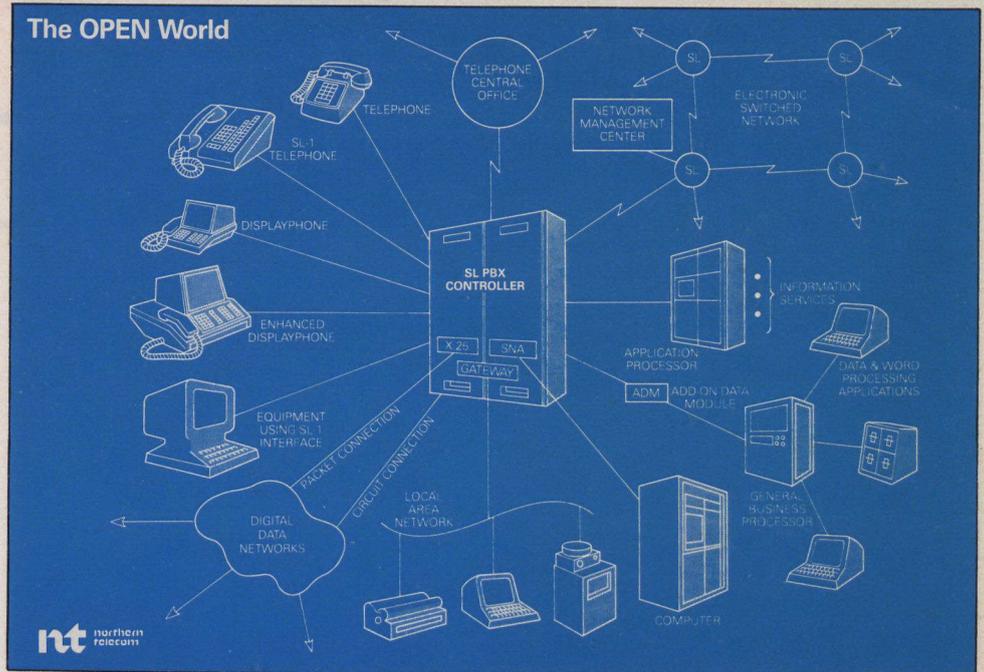
The OPEN World – a versatile information system planned by Northern Telecom

Northern Telecom Limited has announced a \$1.2-billion five-year research and development program that will allow organizations to manage their information needs – including data processing voice and data communications, word processing and communications, and the exchange of image communications – as one integrated system.

The OPEN World (Open Protocol Enhanced Networks) system, which Telecom is planning, represents a significant departure from traditional approaches to the design of information management systems. It comprises a planning framework to assist users in planning and building their own information management systems, and includes the provision of telecommunications products, services and features for the implementation of such systems.

Northern Telecom is planning for a number of new voice and data terminals, for a series of services and features for information handling, and for enhanced networks based on digital communications technology.

A digital switch, either in a telephone company central office or on a user's premises in the form of a business communications system (or PBX), will be the hub or controller of the system. Northern Telecom is evolving its DMS-100 family of telephone switches and its SL family



The OPEN World integrated information management system being developed by Northern Telecom is depicted, with a variety of systems, equipment, networks and services under the control of an SL PBX controller, on one integrated, evolving system.

of PBXs as OPEN World products to meet these requirements.

Northern Telecom Limited is the largest manufacturer of telecommunications equipment in Canada and the second largest in North America. It is also a significant manufacturer of information-

processing equipment. It employs about 35 000 people throughout the world and has 49 manufacturing plants in Canada, the US, England, Republic of Ireland, Malaysia and Brazil. Its shares are listed on the Montreal, New York, Toronto and Vancouver stock exchanges.

Towards a perfect robot

The New York Police Department recently received a call about a suspicious-looking briefcase outside a restaurant in Manhattan. It called in its new bomb-disposing robot from Canada, the Remote Mobile Investigations Unit (RMI-3).

With ease and dexterity, the remote-control device picked up the case and deposited it in an explosion-proof box at the rear of the bomb squad's truck. The case was found to be harmless, but the robot's performance was a confirmed success.

"It's like buying life insurance for bomb squads," says Robert Pederson, president of Pedesco (Canada) Ltd., the robot inventor. His firm has been manufacturing the units at its Scarborough, Ontario location for six years.

With contacts and encouragement supplied by the Ontario Ministry of Industry and Trade field offices in both New York and Willowdale, the company has been



Bomb-disposing robot proves a success.

able to expand its international profile. Approximately 90 RMI-3 models now can be found in the service of law enforcement agencies overseas and through-

out the United States, as well as across Canada.

The robot has won widespread publicity. In New York, the briefcase incident brought news hounds scrambling for details. Major newspapers, including *The New York Times*, and three major television networks covered the event.

The robot most recently demonstrated its strength in Arizona during a hostage-taking incident. Complete with two-way radio and mounted guns, it confronted the criminal and forced his surrender, while the police kept vigil a safe 90 metres away.

The basic robot sells for \$20 000 (US) with extra options available on a made-to-order basis. These include radio control, X-ray vision, blasting water guns used to defuse bombs, and firefighting equipment.

When assembled, the New York Police Department's model cost \$64 000 (US), weighed in at 104.3 kilograms and stood 46 centimetres high when folded.