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of direct satellite-to-home reception of video programming. The pilot project is currently being carried out on 14/12 GHz services leased by the department on Telesat's *Anik B* satellite. This new application holds considerable promise for national and regional networks of educational and other programming.

The capability of higher frequency satellites to make video services available in remote, rural and urban markets alike without intermediate terrestrial re-transmission or local cable distribution is also evoking the active commercial interest of broadcasters, producers, packagers and distributors of premium and special interest programming not now available in Canada.

Satellite launches

The delays being experienced in the U.S. Space Transportation System, better known as the Space Shuttle System, are publicly known and of concern to Telesat. Although there has yet been no official revision by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration of the proposed November 3, 1981 Shuttle launch of *Anik C 1*, there are indications that this launch may not be possible until August 1982.

During 1980, the company will continue to monitor the progress of the Shuttle program closely. In any event, contingency plans for the alternative of a Delta launch for either or both of the first *Anik C* and *Anik D* launches are proceeding apace, and no major dislocation of Telesat's spacecraft launch schedules is anticipated.

Australian opportunity

Not directly related to Telesat's primary responsibility to provide state-of-the-art satellite communications services in Can-

ada, but a reflection of the company's unique record of achievements as a domestic satellite communications carrier, has been the interest shown by the Australian Government in Canada's satellite system.

For a number of years, the Australian Department of Posts and Telecommunications has maintained close contact with Telesat in the growth and development of [Canada's] satellite system, preparatory to deciding on a course of action for an Australian system. Australia shares with Canada the difficult problem of providing modern telecommunications for a relatively small population scattered across the length and breadth of a vast country.

In Australia, during the summer of 1979, at the request and under the sponsorship of the Canadian Department of

Communications, Telesat took part in a series of briefings, workshops and demonstrations of Canadian satellite communications technology and its applications. In Canada, Telesat received several high-level delegations of Australian government officials and private sector broadcasters studying the Canadian system.

The Australian Government is expected to reach a decision on a domestic communications satellite system during 1980. Telesat and a number of Canadian spacecraft and earth station manufacturers have officially registered their interest in various phases of the Australian project. If the high level of interest shown by the Australians in the Canadian experience is translated into action, considerable business could accrue to Telesat and other Canadian high technology organizations.

News briefs

In its first season as an operator of east coast offshore exploration programs, Petro-Canada, the federal oil corporation, will spend about \$70 million and use three drillships to sink at least three wells. The costs of the 1980 activities will be shared by Petrocan, 35.24 per cent; Gulf Canada Resources Inc. of Calgary, 25.93 per cent; Calgary-based Aquitaine Co. of Canada Ltd., 18.83 per cent; Suncor Inc. of Toronto, 10 per cent; and Agip Canada Ltd., 10 per cent.

The Ontario government has set up an emergency planning office, Solicitor-General Roy McMurtry has announced. Retired Brigadier-General C.L. Kirby will oversee plans by police and fire officials to handle all major accidents including fires, nuclear spills or air crashes. Mr. McMurtry said the government looked at emergency planning after the Three Mile Island accident but, after the Mississauga train derailment, officials decided to extend the plans to cover all accidents. The government also has commissioned the Institute of Environmental Studies to do a \$150,000 study on the evacuation and impact on Mississauga after the accident.

The Canadian Government and eight Canadian companies took part in Oil Show 1980, the international oil industry trade show held in Rio de Janeiro July 1-4. The show, attracting over 400 exhibitors from 30 countries, displayed equipment and techniques covering all

aspects of the petroleum industry — prospecting, exploration, production, transportation and refining. Canadian participating companies were: Davie Shipbuilding Limited, Lauzon, Quebec; Dreco Limited, Edmonton; CanOcean Resources Limited, New Westminster, British Columbia; Marinav Corporation, Ottawa; International Submarine Engineering Limited, Port Moody, British Columbia; Canadian Fracmaster Limited, Calgary; Walsh Process Control Limited, Montreal; and Conair Aviation Limited, Abbotsford, British Columbia.

Manitoba park ranger Robert Enns has been awarded the 1980 International Snowmobile Industry Association's Award of Merit for his efforts in promoting snowmobiling in Manitoba and in particular, Spruce Woods Provincial Park. Mr. Enns received his award in Niagara Falls, New York, at the twelfth International Snowmobile Congress Awards Banquet.

For the first time in the 85-year history of the International Skating Union a Canadian has been elected to its Council. Donald Gilchrist of Ottawa was voted into the Council at its annual Congress in Davos, Switzerland. The International Skating Union is the rule-making body for both figure and speed skating. The council is made up of one president and vice-president, three council members and two substitutes. Mr. Gilchrist will serve as the second member. Prior to this appointment, Mr. Gilchrist had served on the technical committee for figure skating for 13 years.

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