

has ever been involved. The partners have worked together closely from the program's inception and have achieved tremendous technical and program successes. We at Spar are proud of our role in this important milestone in the evolution of Canadian communications."

### **CALQUEST™**

Described as the most advanced satellite phone ever developed for aviation, the actual unit is being built by **CAL Corporation** of Ottawa. Known as *CALQuest™*, it provides seamless coverage without the coverage gaps and tower-to-tower call hand-offs and the resulting dropped calls of conventional air-to-ground phone systems.

The first and only in-cabin phone that permits direct up-calling, the unit features high quality digital voice transmission, an optional port for sending and receiving faxes, as well as a data port compatible with any laptop computer. An optional two-channel phone configuration will also soon be available.



The office in the sky concept is now a reality.

In terms of price, according to CAL Corporation, *CALQuest™* is the lowest cost system now available. Air time rates are also said to be the lowest with per-minute charges starting at \$2.80 CDN.

MSAT aeronautical services are available from **Mobility Canada Satellite**, and the **Government Telecommunications Informatics Services (GTIS)**.

Earlier this year, it was confirmed that the first *CALQuest™* Satellite phone operating on the Mobility Satellite network had been installed on a private corporate jet, officially launching Mobility Satellite's aeronautical service.

"This partnership with CAL Corporation enables us to provide even more value-added services to our customers," states **Charles Labarge**, President and CEO of Mobility Canada. "Together, we are able to create a synergy which allows us to draw from our vast experience in our respective fields and provide real opportunities for Canadians to improve their productivity and enhance their quality of life."

### **SKYPHONE SUCCESS**

*In May 1996, Skyphone, the airline satcom network consortium, announced a global Aeronautical Telecommunications Network (ATN) capability that lets air traffic controllers track commercial aircraft on long haul flights wherever they are in the world with pin-point accuracy.*

*The successful transmissions were made using a British Airways Boeing 747-400 flying from London Heathrow to Taipei in Taiwan via Hong Kong and back to Heathrow, also via Hong Kong.*

*Skyphone's expanded ATN connectivity represents a major boost to air traffic management, delivering real-time location reporting to ground controllers along with enhanced safety and a decreased cockpit workload for the crew, regardless of the aircraft's position.*

*At press time, the consortium is the only satcom service provider that can offer full ATN connectivity to the managers of global air traffic, the international Civil Aviation Authorities (CAAs).*