Technical Notes

By Glenn Kaufman

RCA predicts that this new system of multi-channel transoceanic air traffic control may be necessary to prevent international issues from arising. RCA's description states that the system's elements are being designed to prevent international issues from arising.

Sheer volume of traffic between aircraft may make it impossible to prevent international issues from arising. The system's capability to prevent international issues will be crucial.

The way a CCD eye works is this: when an image is focussed on the CCD, the sensor's electronic elements transform the picture into individual charge packets which are then rapidly transferred by charge transfer techniques. The resulting information can then be processed and displayed on a TV screen. In the RCA CCD, half of the elements from the imaging array and the other half are for storage and readout.

*RCA and McDonnell Douglas have signed an agreement for the aerospace firm to augment the launch capability of the Thor/Delta rocket by 30 percent, the first time that private industry has set design requirements and provided funds for a major modification to a military rocket. The improved launch capability of the rockets will provide RCA with the most economical means of placing high-capacity domestic communications satellites into geostationary orbits above an altitude of 22,300 miles. An investment of $150 million will result in a payload capacity of 2000 pounds versus the present 1550. In combination with a reduced weight 24-channel satellite, the augmented launch vehicle will make it possible to put the satellites in orbit for substantially less than the $60 million cost for an Atlas/ Centaur program. The satellites are part of a system pending approval by the FCC -- the program calls for orbiting of two satellites and construction of nine earth stations to serve the US. The 24 transponder channels will each have the capability to handle 24 TV channels or 24,000 voice-grade circuits, the largest satellite transponder capacity so far. Under the RCA agreement, McDonnell Douglas will have NASA develop all necessary support equipment and facility modifications needed for the launch. The first augmented Thor/Delta is expected to be ready for launch by mid-1978.

*PIATT & WHITNEY have developed an accelerated endurance testing program aimed at defining problem in jet engines before they are deployed on actual flight operation. The JT3D engines, which power Boeing 747's and the Douglas DC-10, are put through a series of test cycles which repeat engine transitions between idle and takeoff, emphasizing the most punishing phases of aircraft operation. This type of testing forces the engines to sputter on public roads as much as possible, providing the equivalent of at least three or four years of actual service. The results are being utilized to develop more durable engines by enabling the exclusion of the service life of the most critical components.

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Please contact Alice Wolf (Personnel Director) or Tom Marsil (President) at 617-491-2670.

Computer Corporation of America

MITV News will be shown from 9am to 5pm today in the lobby of building 7. The show will include reports on the faculty meeting, Monday's lecture by Sheldon Silverman, and a summary of the week's news. Join us — the show lasts 15 minutes, but almost no segment is longer than 90 seconds.

The four letter word that's not.

Will whoever ripped off the "ghost" (highly colored, 12-ft long pole) from Kenzie Plaza on Friday night return it to its proper place? It is part of a CAVS experiment.

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Have you spent your nights and weekends at the computer center, while everyone else was doing something else? Are you afraid to tell your family and friends that your secret love is a computer? At National CSS, we understand. We feel the same way about you. That's why we've been able to develop a new operating system that has made us the leader in the remote computing industry. We are looking for people who wish to become involved in:

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