Centrex might be replaced

(Continued from page 1)

Improved Features Offered

The new system will allow special features, such as call waiting, as well as standard telephone service. Features must be paid for on a monthly basis under the Centrex system. Bertin hopes to offer features free of charge with the SESS.

The SESS will permit digital data communication at speeds up to 56 kilobaud. Customers desiring high-speed data communication would have to purchase a higher-priced telephone equipped with a 25-pin computer connector and pay for the additional data-switch service.

A single telephone line would be able to carry digital and voice communication simultaneously, eliminating the need for dual lines. The cost of telephone service will therefore decrease for many offices, because fewer lines will be needed, Bertin explained. With the present MIT telephone system, a modem is necessary for data communication. Most modems are limited to a speed of 1.2 kilobaud, and require the rental of a dedicated phone line.

Dispute with Company

The SESS would connect to New England Telephone's network through "trunk" lines. Trunk lines can be designated for either residential or business use. Bertin has asked New England Telephone to allow MIT to buy a number of residential trunk lines for the exclusive use of students. Under this arrangement students would pay a flat rate and other users would be charged for usage units.

New England Telephone has not agreed to Bertin's proposal. "The mixing of residential and business lines in the same network [Private Branch Exchange] system is inconsistent with existing Massachusetts tariffs," stated New England Telephone Manager of Public Relations Bill Welch. "Therefore we simply cannot provide that service."

According to Bertin, New England Telephone is resistant because acceptance of the proposal would set a precedent for the company's relations with other universities. Many area universities, including Harvard, are considering replacement of their current telephone systems with University-owned switches. If student lines are classified as "residential," Bertin said, New England Telephone stands to lose revenue.

Bertin intends to bring the issue of classification of student "trunks" before the Department of Public Utilities within the next two months.

New England Telephone policy would also prevent MIT from connecting its switch to long distance carriers through existing New England Telephone trunks, Bertin explained. Welch said, "Customers have the option to connect to long distance companies through our network or directly."

According to Bertin, however, New England Telephone would not automatically transmit to the long distance carrier the 7 digit billing code. Without the telephone number, the long distance carrier cannot bill the originator of the call.

Bertin is considering directly connecting the SESS to long distance carriers. He is discussing this possibility with AT&T Communications, Microwave Communications Incorporated, and General Telephone and Electronics Sprint.

Much Construction Needed

Several factors prevent the installation of the SESS before the summer of 1987. The software package which Bertin wishes to run on the switch, called 5ESS, will not be available until early 1987. In addition, MIT must allocate and prepare physical space on campus for the switch. The SESS will require about 5000 square feet.

Rewiring of the entire institute would be necessary for installation of any on-campus telephone switch. Parts of the underground phone duct system are clogged and must be cleared. Some buildings, such as N51 and N52, have no telephone ducts connecting them with the rest of the Institute, so new ducts would have to be built.

The Telecommunications Office intends to "create a parallel system, to build a new system while the old one is still functioning" to prevent an interruption in telephone service, Bertin said.

The SESS, if approved, will have a capacity of 14,000 telephone lines when installed and expandable to a maximum of 100,000 extensions. MIT now has over 10,700 Centrex telephone extensions in the 253 and 258 exchanges and 2500 Dorelaine extensions in the 225 exchange.

Bertin estimated the total cost of conversion to the new system, including the price of the switch, renovation and rewiring, and purchase of every telephone instrument on campus, at $19.3 million. The cost may be slightly lower, he noted, because not all offices will need to replace previously purchased telephones.

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All interested students invited to attend

"So do not worry, saying 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we do?' As for the Lord your God, he will be with you wherever you go."

Matthew 4:9

AEPi BOAT RIDE TO BOSTON

PAGE 13
FRIDAY, AUGUST 30, 1985

STEP 1: WAIT TILL THE PICNIC IS OVER
STEP 2: WALK TO THE SAILING PAVILION OR LOOK FOR AN AEPI SIGN
STEP 3: GET ON A BOAT
STEP 4: ENJOY A SCENIC AND PLEASANT RIDE TO BOSTON
STEP 5: GET OFF AT AEPI
STEP 6: TASTE SOME OF THE BEST ICE CREAM IN BOSTON
STEP 7: MEET THE BROTHERS OF AEPI

WHY WALK? WHY DRIVE?

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