Source: Communication & Broadcasting - June 1982

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View of the Master Control

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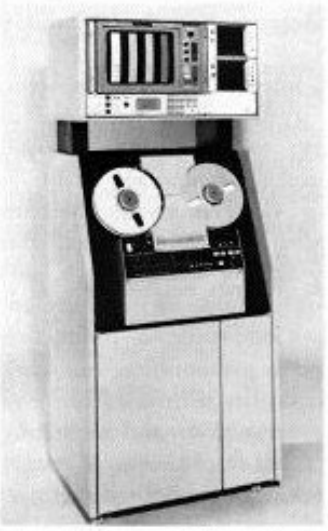
The MR2B incorporates all the advantages of the MR2, whilst also introducing slow-motion reverse. This facility enables stable pictures to be generated at constantly-variable speeds between 1¼ times normal speed forwards and ¼ normal in reverse, making it invaluable for editing. Other features exclusive to the MR2B include improved audio and servo response.



The Marconi MR2B video tape recorder

Source: Communication & Broadcasting - September1982

Top television engineering award for Marconi

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Ray Matchell's team at Chelmsford has been responsible for the development of the B3410 digital line-array telecine, a revolutionary new design that employs to the full the latest advances in telecine technology. It has already attracted orders from broadcasters and facilities operators in the United States and the Middle East as well as in the United Kingdom. As centre-piece of the Marconi exhibit at the National Association of Broadcasters Exhibition at Dallas in April 1982 it was the focus of a great deal of professional interest.

Telecines convert film into television pictures and are a vital part of the equipment in any television production area. They enable the creation of a wide range of effects which are now taken for granted by the viewing public.

This new Marconi development, employing digital techniques, line-array imaging sensors and other advances, has been hailed as one of the most exciting things to happen in television engineering for some years. The inherent stability of the machine, the simplicity of its operation and maintenance, instant film size and line-standard changeover all combine to make it a very attractive option for the professional user.

It is no wonder that Ray Matchell's team feels proud.

View of the B3410 Telecine and MR2B Video Tape Recorder installation recently supplied to Filmatic Laboratories, a leading specialist film-processing company.

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Source: Communication & Broadcasting - June 1982

Mark IX Camera successes— BBC among the latest purchasers

The Mark IX Camera is continuing its run of success with more notable orders.

The British Broadcasting Corporation has awarded Marconi Communication Systems a major contract worth more than £500000 for the supply and installation of vision equipment in Studio B at Broadcasting House, Glasgow in Scotland.

Studio B is a new development designed for current affairs programmes and forms part of the BBC's plans for the improvement of its regional television facilities. The Company is to provide three Mark IX Cameras, together with a vision mixer, preview monitoring switcher, monitors and ancillary equipment. Marconi is also to design the control desks, monitor-stacks and special control units to provide a comprehensive video installation due to become operational later this year.

Also in Scotland, the Glasgow based independent network company Scottish Television has reaffirmed its confidence in Marconi by placing further orders for colour television equipment. One of three orders recently placed with Marconi by Scottish Television is for the supply of a mini-mobile O.B van which STV is to engineer using Marconi equipment. In addition it has placed two orders for Marconi Mark IX camera channels. Already the owners of nine Mark IX Studio Cameras, Scottish Television has now ordered four further channels.

London Weekend Television, the Independent Television Company that operates from the South Bank Television Centre has ordered ten Marconi Mark IX Studio Cameras and one Mark IX Portable Camera for use in re-equipping Studios Two and Three at the South Bank where Studio One already has five Mark IX Studio Cameras in operation.

The Mark IX family consists of two types of camera head, a common control unit and a range of options, which together satisfy all the needs of the broadcaster, who can select whatever facilities he needs – automatic or manual operation, multicore or triax cable, camera tube type, battery or mains operation, size and type of lens.

View of Glasgow where both BBC and STV have ordered Mark IX Cameras

Communication and Broadcasting - February 1982

The first television transmitters for Channel 4 are ready to go

The first pair of television transmitters for the Independent Broadcasting Authority's Channel 4 service have been connected to their channel combiners and handed over ready for use when the IBA brings the Channel 4 into service during 1982.

The two Marconi Type B7445 15kW u.h.f transmitters have been installed and commissioned at Winter Hill, Lancashire, by Marconi Communication Systems Limited. Marconi is equipping a further eleven IBA sites throughout the United Kingdom with similar transmitter suites, as well as installing a one-B7445/one-B7442 (4kW) u.h.f combination at a further thirteen sites, all for the Channel 4 network. These, as well as some twenty-five further sites throughout the United Kingdom, are being equipped with Marconi-designed channel-combining units which will enable all four television channels (two BBC and two IBA) to be transmitted from the same mast.

Source: News Link No.8 July 1982

No. 8 July 1982

News

IN response to the demands placed on them by Geoff Sturgeon's Spares Department at Westway, the team from Defence Communications Division at Widford has been pulling out all the stops to ensure that equipment, both naval and military, required as a result of the crisis in the Falklands, is ready as quickly as possible. Well done to you all.

GEC Australia has been appointed agent in Australia for Broadcasting Division. This agency has hitherto been held by Amalgamated Wireless (Australia) Ltd.

ANTENNA Systems Division is **providing 27 Conifan antennas for a project in Bolivia. A number of airstrips in the Andes, the foothills and on the coastal plain are to be linked by radio to create a network which will improve dramatically the interior communications in this broken and rugged terrain. Since aeroplanes are, in many parts of Bolivia, what the car is in England, such communications must be the best available.**

BROADCASTING Division is to build and market a transportable satellite earth station that can be used with standard Outside Broadcast units. Designed and developed by the BBC, the prototype is at present in Spain where it is providing coverage of the World Cup.

SIX Marconi Mark 1XB colour television cameras have been sold to Mexico for use on the educationally-biased Channel 11. Furthermore, some earlier Mark X cameras already operating there are to be converted to bring them in line with the Mark 1XBs.

RADIO and Line Division's Supergroup and Hypergroup Codecs have just gained their first orders, worth several millions of pounds. These equipments, unique to Marconi, are an essential part of any operation involving the integration of digital and analogue plant or systems.

brief

Telecine wins top accolade

THE world-beating digital telecine developed by Ray Matchell and his team at Waterhouse Lane has just won Broadcasting Division's third Geoffrey Parr Award in just ten years.

Earlier awards were for the Mark VIII automatic colour television camera in 1971 and the B3404 telecine in 1975.

The Geoffrey Parr Award is made annually by the Royal Television Society to mark the most significant advance in television technology and is considered to be one of the most prestigious engineering awards in international television.

Telecines are machines for converting cine film into television pictures for transmission and whilst conventional systems either use camera tubes or photomultipliers to pick up the pictures and to convert them into electronic signals, the new Marconi B3410 uses charge-coupled devices as the imaging sensors.

This means that the B3410 is a very stable, reliable machine in which many of the major problems of earlier equipment, notably the setting up procedures, have been eliminated.

There is a unique digital video-processing system which, together with solid-state circuitry, microprocessor control and a simple attractive design, has resulted in the B3410 attracting the notice from potential customers that its advanced design merits.

Designer Ray Matchell

It has already gained firm orders from the United States and the Middle East as well as from both broadcasters and facilities houses in the United Kindom.

Potential customers are also being briefed in Europe, the Far East and Africa.

Ray Matchell, whose second Geoffrey Parr Awards this is, says that his team are delighted at the honour.

MARCONI, SAVING LIVES AT SEA

The sea can be an inhospitable and dangerous place. Every year ships are lost; some swept by fire, others overwhelmed by the elements.

The task of going to the assistance of ships in distress and of searching for survivors is often hampered by would-be rescuers not knowing precisely where to look. As a result, lives are frequently lost needlessly.

Improvements in safety-at-sea regulations are introduced from time to time and the latest one incorporates a number of additions to the electronic equipment to be carried by all ships at sea of more than 1,600 tons.

Defence Communications Division has recently received an important order to provide the Ministry of Defence (Navy) with some 80 Lodestar IIID automatic direction finders worth more than £500,000 for installation aboard ships of the Royal Navy.

These, coupled to the watch-keeping receiver that always has to be switched on when the ship is at sea, will pick up and plot a bearing automatically for any call put out over the international distress frequency on 2182 mHz.

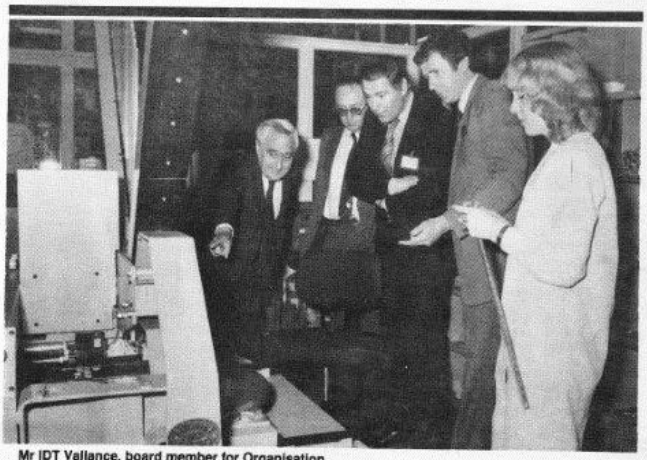
Since another recent addition to the electronic safety measures is an automatic alarm generator which, when activated, continuously transmits the distress call until switched off or engulfed, these electronic advances could represent a major improvement in safety-of-life-at-sea procedures. Marconi Marine is the major supplier of all these systems to the mercantile marine.

Royal Navy ships, and those of foreign navies, are the most effective rescue service in maritime distress situations. Not only are they equipped with divers, helicopters, fire-fighting teams and well-trained manpower, but they also have extremely comprehensive and flexible communications. Time and again these factors and supreme seamanship, have proved decisive.

During the Fastnet race of 1979, when nearly 20 lives were lost and hundreds more were at risk, the Royal Navy co-ordinated and controlled a massive and complex rescue operation.

When the Alexander Kielland, an offshore accommodation platform in the North Sea, capsized in 1980, the Royal Netherlands Navy had a ship in the area which immediately took charge of the rescue until the Norwegians arrived on the scene.

In both cases, the ships concerned were equipped with ICS from Defence Communications Divisions.



Mr IDT Vallance, board member for Organisation and Business Systems, British Telecom, was a recent visitor to Chelmsford. He is seen in the Radio and Line Division manufacturing area. Managing Director Paul Robinson explains the intricacies of the latest integrated circuit insertion equipment to him while Divisional Manager Robbie Robertson, Norman Hodson and operator Mandy Freyer look on.

Here's how it works...

Marconi containerized transmitters

The first of two containerized colour television transmitters that the Nigerian Television Authority has ordered from GEC Telecommunications (Nigeria) reached Lagos by sea on 27th April 1982. Shipped from Tilbury aboard the s.s Shonga, the 40 feet long container is now being installed at Bauchi. A second container, destined for Minna, in Niger State, is due to follow shortly. Both have been provided by Marconi Communication Systems.

The Nigerian Television Authority has opted for containerization as a means of making major cost savings, both in time and installation. Each container comprises one B7433 v.h.f Band III colour television transmitter with a comprehensive range of control monitoring and test facilities. Air conditioning and sufficient spare space make it a suitable working environment for the engineers who may, from time to time, have to visit the site.

The first of the two containers being loaded at Tilbury Docks, London

The transmitters arrive on site in Nigeria virtually ready to operate, full system testing having been carried out at Chelmsford. Since the B7433 is designed for unattended operation, and the container is the building that houses it, minimal site facilities are needed, reducing civil engineering and maintenance costs substantially. An antenna system, a power supply and a concrete base for the container are all that are needed; the transmitter is connected up, final tests carried out and adjustments made, and the station is ready to transmit.

Containerization is an attractive option, providing a practical, cost-effective and relatively simple solution to the many problems associated with developing a viable broadcasting network, either for television or for radio, quickly whilst keeping the peripheral costs of ownership – site preparation, accommodation and maintenance – to a minimum.

Communication and Broadcasting - June 1982

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View of the Master Control

Communication and Broadcasting - June 1982

A new O.B unit for ITN

Independent Television News Ltd. has just taken delivery of its new Outside Broadcast Vehicle from Marconi Communication Systems Limited.

Although the unit contains the full range of equipment and communication facilities expected of a fully professional O.B. camera unit, physical size has been a prime consideration.

Marconi designed the whole unit to a size of 5.5 m long, by 2.1 m wide and 2.75 m high, which enables existing garage space in the heart of London's West End to be utilized. With a crew of three or four and its comprehensive broadcasting equipment, the unit will provide ITN with a sophisticated broadcasting facility.

ITN has been a customer for Marconi broadcasting equipment and systems for many years and most recently eight studio cameras and one portable have been supplied from the Marconi Mark IX range.

View of the new O.B van

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