

## Up with the winners in Fremantle

Television coverage of the recent America's Cup Race has revolutionized the popular image of yacht racing. Live action television pictures, transmitted from aboard the American yacht in the final, were transmitted to homes all over the world. This is the first time such a broadcasting technique has been used on a yacht, adding a new dimension to spectator enjoyment of the sport.

The camera system, Yacht-Cam, which was designed by Northampton television company, 'TV-2 Communications', incorporates a dome antenna developed and supplied by Marconi Communication Systems. TV-2 installed the camera on the 12m yacht, Stars & Stripes, at the request of the Australian broadcaster, Channel 9, and the American cable sports channel, ESPN.

A camera was mounted on the yacht's mast, facing aft, beneath the main boom where it could capture the crew at work. Pictures were sent by cable from the camera to a microwave transmitter which was mounted on the underside of the transom. The signals were then fed into the Marconi dome antenna and transmitted to a helicopter circling overhead. Using a second microwave transmitter on a different frequency, the signals were re-transmitted from the helicopter to the America's Cup studios of Channel 9 and ESPN in Fremantle, Western Australia, from where live television pictures were sent, via satellite, to all major broadcasters worldwide.

Because of the great demand for microwave frequencies, broadcasters did not learn which ones they would be using until two weeks before leaving for Fremantle. Marconi Communication Systems was, therefore, left very little time to develop an antenna to operate in the 2GHz band. Nevertheless the company did supply the equipment to TV-2 ahead of schedule.

This live television coverage of the America's Cup Race is one of the largest outside broadcast projects ever undertaken. Commenting on the TV-2/Marconi collaboration, David Earl, designer of the on-board camera system Yacht-Cam said; "The TV coverage of this historic race has given spectators a grandstand seat in their homes, it brought the race alive. Viewers did not just see white triangles against a blue

background, they were able to appreciate the skill, excitement and sheer hard work involved in sailing 12 metre yachts."

TV-2 has been using Marconi Communication Systems' antennas for its broadcasting projects since the company was formed. Both companies have shared success in similar broadcasting projects in the fields of Formula 1 motor racing, motor cycle racing and power boat racing.



## Marconi telecines 'down under'

Channel 10 television company of Sydney, Australia, has purchased its second Marconi B3410 Digital Line Array Telecine after working successfully with its first system for six months. The order, valued at approximately £100k, was placed with Marconi Communication Systems in conjunction with GEC Australia.

The B3410 Line Array Telecine employs fully digital video processing with digital frame store, and

features advanced techniques for film correction. It can handle 16mm and 35mm film, either positive, negative or interpositive, and is equally suitable for broadcast and post-production transfer work.

Marconi has received substantial orders for its telecine equipment from Europe and the USA.

*The Marconi B3410 Telecine showing PREFIX remote control panel*

