

News from

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R-range

P R E S S C U T T I N G S

September 1980

PENNY LIMITED of Dublin have ordered an R850 distributed data processing system from Redifon Computers (Ireland) Limited. The system will handle merchandising with validated data being communicated to a bureau in Birmingham and accounting with data being prepared for input to the UCC bureau in the U.K.

New orders from the east

REDIFON Computers, of Crawley, has won orders worth £200,000 from Czechoslovakia.

And the company says it is a significant landmark for its marketing operation in that country since the four systems ordered bring the total number of systems there to 100.

The firm began operating in Czechoslovakia six years ago and was the first British company to be granted official commercial recognition.

Included in the contracts are three data entry systems for Czech Breweries, one data entry system for a steelworks, and enhancements for the Czech Insurance Company.

Czech Breweries will install one system in its Prague headquarters, one in the famous Budvar brewery and the third in its soft drinks factory.

An interesting feature of the steelworks system to be installed is that it will be connected on-line to a Siemens process control computer in the tube mill.

Redifon Computers think it will be the first installation of this type anywhere in the world. The rest of the orders are a further 15 terminals for the Czech Insurance Company which will be installed in its Prague and other computer centres.

That company is one of the largest Czech users of Redifon equipment with seven systems installed in Prague and regional offices. Redifon Computers has also received an order worth more than £45,000 for a data entry system from Forward Computing Ltd., of Birmingham, the

computer bureau of Costain, the international construction group.

Forward Computing provides extensive services to Kwikform Ltd., and other Midland companies in processing sale and hire equipment, stock control of manufactured parts, finished goods and all of the generalised accounting services.

Anglia Time Sharing Services Ltd., of Stowmarket, have ordered from Redifon Computers equipment worth more than £212,000.

Extract from
Surrey Mirror, Redhill

£250,000 export deal

REDIFON, Crawley's computer company, has secured an export deal worth nearly £250,000 behind the Iron Curtain.

The Kelvin Way based company has sold four complete computer systems to Czechoslovakia for organisations as widely different as a brewery and an insurance company.

Special

And for Redifon the deal has a special significance as it marks 100th computer installation for the Czechs.

It began trading there six years ago and was the first British company to receive official commercial recognition there.

Extract from
Surrey Mirror, Redhill

29 AUG 1980

Redifon success

CRAWLEY'S Redifon Computers has worked out orders worth £200,000 from Czechoslovakia.

The latest instalment of the number of Redifon systems in that country is 100.

Redifon was the first British company to gain commercial recognition there.

The contract includes three systems for Czech breweries and one for a steelworks.

Extract from
Caterham Times, Surrey

- 5 SEP 1980

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Extract from
Crawley Advertiser, West Sussex

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extract from Computerworld UK
3.9.80

Redifon ton-up in East Europe

Redifon has chalked up the sale of its 100th system in Czechoslovakia. The Crawley-based company last week announced orders worth £200,000 for four data entry systems and for enhancements to an existing configuration.

Three Redifon R350s will go the Czech Brewery in Prague and the provinces and one R300 will be supplied to the Podbrezova Steelworks in Slovakia. The Czech Insurance Company, which already runs seven Redifon systems, has ordered an additional 15 terminals.

Redifon opened for business in Czechoslovakia in 1974 and it was the first British company to win full commercial accreditation under legislation passed in 1978. Its systems in Czechoslovakia are attached to various exotic Soviet mainframes and according to managing director Michael Aldrich "they are not too hot on documentation. More often than not it's a voyage of discovery interfacing to them," he added.

The R300 for the Podbrezova Steelworks will front-end a Soviet EC1033 mainframe and it will also be connected on-line to a Siemens process control system in the tube mill. This is thought to be the first installation of its

The merging of computers and communications is helping to introduce new techniques to the office environment.

Tomorrow's office integrates two technologies

IN recent years, many forecasts have been made about the convergence of computer and communications technologies in the field of office equipment and systems. As computer techniques have been applied increasingly to telephone systems, and as computer installations have become more and more concerned with data communications, so it has become clear that there must be a meeting point in future applications.

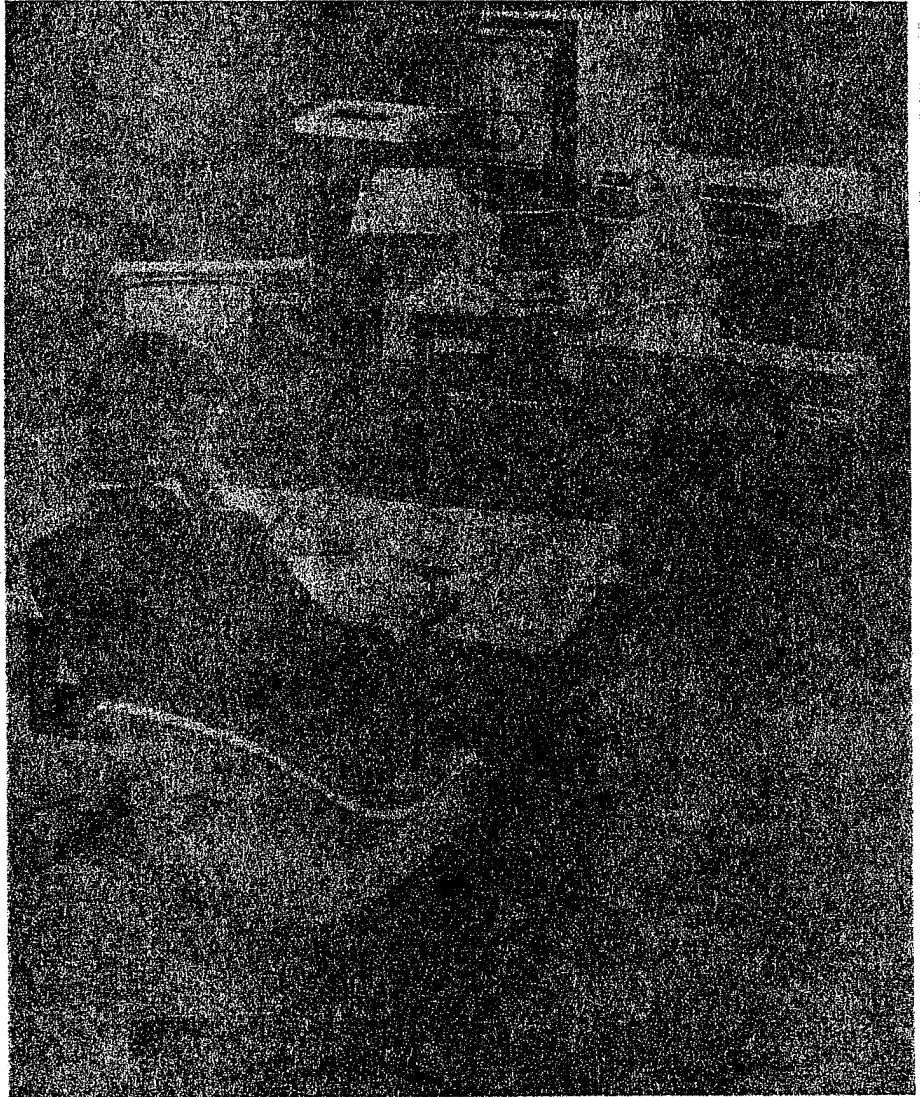
At the same time, developments in related fields have started to open up additional opportunities to improve office procedures. Word processing has joined data processing as a potent electronic technique, and is seen to be closely allied to the sending of correspondence by electronic mail techniques. Viewdata systems, in which television receivers can interact with a central computer over telephone lines, are also being applied in the business environment.

One company which has taken a step towards integrating these various developments into a total office system is Redifon Computers Ltd, the British company which has supplied substantial installations to several Middle East countries. Earlier this year, the company released a range of computer systems under the name 'Redifon's Office Revolution', designed to enable enterprises to improve their communications both with their customers and internally.

Known as the R1800 Series, it combines multiple advanced technologies into one integrated system. The first model released was the mid-range R1800/50, which provides full hardware and software support for 'Viewdata Plus'; CRT data entry; CRT transaction processing; CRT word processing; real-time hand-print data processing ('Writaway'); data processing; and internal and external data communications. The R1800/50 has now been joined by the R1800/30 compact office system.

Communications with customers are made by using the Viewdata Plus intelligent televisions and Writaway hand-print terminals installed at the customer's agents or local branch premises. The intelligent televisions and the hand-print terminals are connected by standard dial-up telephone lines to a computer system or a series of computer systems operated by the enterprise.

In the case of the intelligent television - a colour television capable of receiving broadcast television, broadcast text, plus a telephone connection enabling it to send



Elements of the Redifon Computers R1800 Series, an integrated office system capable of handling data, text, image and graphics from three types of multi-function workstations - intelligent colour televisions, hand-print terminals and visual display units.

and receive information to and from any number of computers - the customer chooses a telephone number from the directory held by the television's memory and commands the TV to 'phone' the chosen computer. The TV obeys and connection is made automatically. The computer sends a 'greetings' page of information and offers a

'menu' of services. The customer uses a hand-held key-pad, rather like a TV remote control, to select services from the menu. These services would include:

Enquiry - information on products, services, people, locations, telephone numbers, statistics, advertising and presentational material, etc. In this mode of operation the customer would receive information and the enterprise would merely note that the information had been given.

Service - order reservations, order entry, order changes, quotations, estimates, messages, confirmations, complaints handling - any transaction handling. In service mode the customer would be able to complete any transaction or ser-

vice interface with the enterprise without the need for voice-to-voice, eye-to-eye or paper-to-paper connections.

Entertainment - the entertainment capabilities are akin to the TV games facilities provided by separate boxes on conventional TVs. An enterprise might provide games to stimulate interest in its activities, achievements, products, etc, or merely as just an attraction on the 'informatics' systems.

Education - an enterprise often has to educate its customers in the use of products and services. Full programmed learning

The potential modes of use are much the same as the intelligent televisions. The key questions and the timescales are also the same.

The R1800/50 is a multi-function shared and distributed logic system featuring support for up to 32 alphanumeric CRT micro-terminals, support for up to 64 viewdata ports for connection of intelligent colour televisions, support for up to 32 real-time hand-print terminals, support for up to 33 printers and support for up to 96 concurrent job executions.

Software supports information proces-

ing terminals, televisions, peripherals and communications. The R5000 has a 400ns processing cycle for 16 bits and currently uses up to 0.5MB of MOS memory with full error-correction and detection, power fail and graceful shutdown, and battery back-up.

The R1800/50 provides up to 600MB of data/text storage, support for up to 4×25 , 45 or 75 ips magnetic tape drives and up to two diskette drives.

The viewdata terminals are 51cm or 66cm intelligent colour televisions that are switchable between Prestel (the viewdata system of the British Post Office) and the R1800. Full colour, graphics and a selection of keyboards are available. Viewdata provides in addition reception of teletext and all broadcast television. Up to 64 concurrent viewdata job executions are permitted.

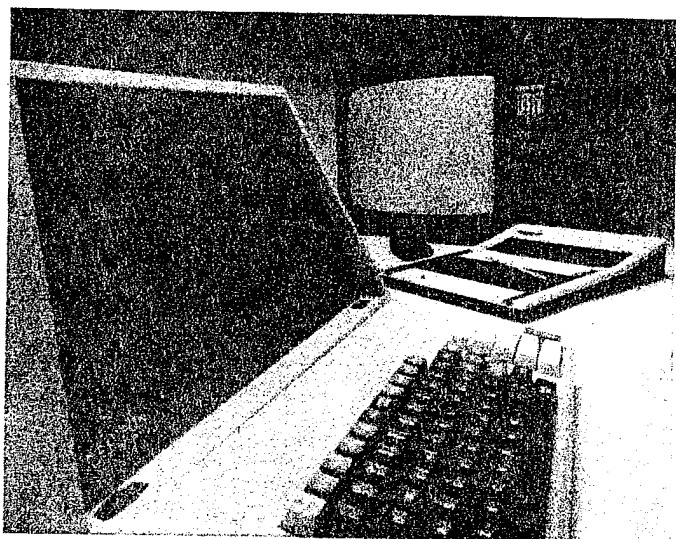
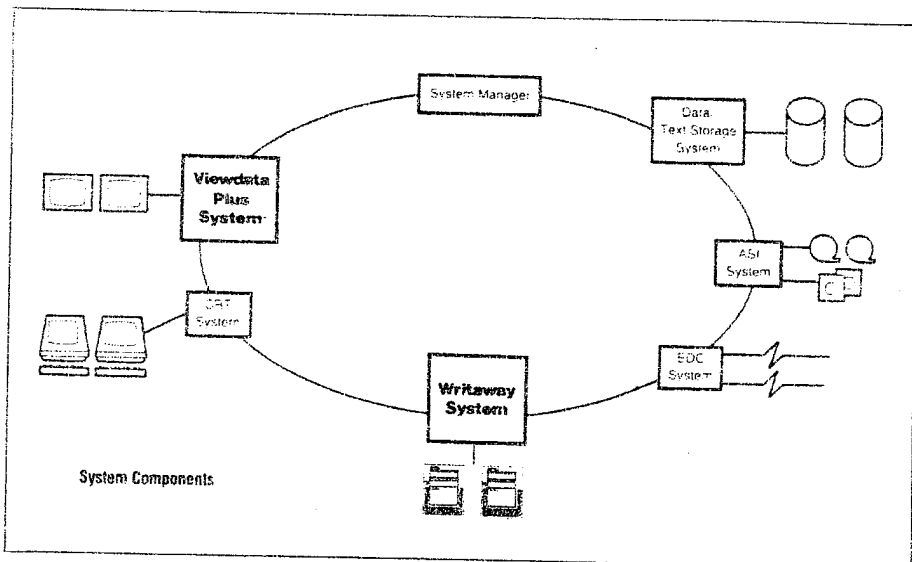
The hand-print terminals, designed for office or factory use, are microprocessor controlled and enable 32 characters of hand-print to be written per line on a document and simultaneously, automatically, captured and processed by the R1800/50.

The R1800/30 uses a new Redifon computer, the R4000, with 96kB memory, 1200ns cycle for 16 bits, and up to 20MB of data/text storage. Four ports are supported for Viewdata Plus real-time interactive intelligent colour televisions. In addition, four Writaway hand-print terminals can be connected. The R1800/30 can function as a productivity-orientated data-entry system, a real-time interactive data processor, a virtual terminal cluster system connected to IBM, ICL or Burroughs host processors for interactive processing, and a remote job entry system for batch processing. Its cost/performance ratio enables it to compete directly with single-function systems.

Redifon believes that the improvement of communication with customers, clients, agents, outlets and distributors outside the enterprise will help to create satisfied customers, and will give a competitive advantage to an enterprise. The systems also have an important role to play within an enterprise, creating the understanding that is vital for teamwork.

'The R1800/50 dramatically demonstrates the versatility and flexibility of state-of-the-art information processing - gathering, moving, processing and distributing information from many sources and mediums within one integrated and simple-to-use system,' said Michael J. Aldrich, managing director of Redifon Computers. 'Using today's technology, cost/benefit and price/performance ratios have been totally redefined.'

'The R1800 Series will revolutionise office procedures in terms of providing a service of communication and recording both within an enterprise, and with the customers, clients, agents and distributors of an enterprise. For the first time it is practical and highly cost-effective to converge both these activities. Redifon will supply, service and support the entire systems, including the intelligent televisions.'



▲ System overview of the R1800.

◀ The Redifon compact office system combines powerful data-entry and distributed data-processing facilities with the features of interactive viewdata and hand-print processing.

capabilities are possible with automatic scoring and automatic pacing.

The second device is the hand-print terminal, known as Writaway. It reads hand-print directly into the computer, carries out verification and validation of the data entered to the same levels of sophistication of dedicated data entry systems. As with the intelligent television, the hand-print terminals can be local or connected over a telephone line to the enterprise's computer. The terminal has a single line visual display that instantly reproduces every character written. A hard-copy document is produced at the same time enabling orders to be placed, accepted and receipted simultaneously.

ing, data entry, real-time transaction processing, pass-through virtual terminal to IBM, ICL and Burroughs hosts, word processing, batch data processing, up to 8MB of virtual memory, and extensive multiple data communications protocols including IBM 2780/3780, HASP-RJE, IBM 3270, ICL 7020, ICL 7502, ICL 7503, Burroughs TD 830, TC 3500, Univac 1004 and Redifon proprietary protocols.

The viewdata implementation - Viewdata Plus - permits any real-time entry, updating, processing and control functions from an intelligent colour television.

The R1800/50 is based on a Redifon-designed microcoded processor, the R5000, controlling microprocessors driv-