

ROCC  
PRESS INFORMATION

M. J. ALDRICH

PRESS CUTTINGS

JULY 1986

## viewdata

VIEWDATA – No more than five years ago, viewdata was regarded as no more than a minor offshoot of mainstream telecomms technology, with limited applications, VIEWDATA is now established as an integral part of information network plans in a number of vertical markets, particularly travel, distribution and finance, NOW .....

# Viewdata Moves into the Fast Lane

by IAN J LEWSLEY

I recently had a talk with Andrew Trew, Chairman of the The Videotex Industries Association about the role the association plays in promoting this fast growing industry and he enthusiastically told me of the objectives and aims of the association. He said "we have the active support of the Department of Trade and Industry and lobby government sources to encourage the orderly development of the market for videotex". Another aim is to encourage the introduction of standards to ensure a less 'fragmented approach' by suppliers, designers and users alike.

Membership of the association is around 100 and ranges from large corporations to chip designers, from consultants to suppliers and Trew said "Philip Oppenheim MP is an active supporter and a Vice President of the association".

One of the association's main activities is the sponsoring of the annual Videotex Users Show held at the Barbican. In January of this year, 3000 visitors attended the show and it is hoped to make it more international next year with a corresponding, much bigger attendance.

order into this industry. We can now look at some of the offerings:

## Disc International

Disc International was formed as an independent company in February 1984. It is owned by a consortium of the companies staff, the Burton Group, British Home Stores and the American management consultancy, IMTEC.

The company was established in the belief that the best way to exploit the enormous growth prospects offered in the videotex market, was to form an independent, specialist company dedicated to the development and marketing of Viewbase interactive videotex. Viewbase was originally developed within the Debenhams Group to meet the need for an effective and accurate vehicle for management information. The commercial potential of such a powerful interactive videotex product was quickly recognised and significant sales have been made, particularly in the retailing, brewing, finance and leisure industries, and in the public services along with local government.

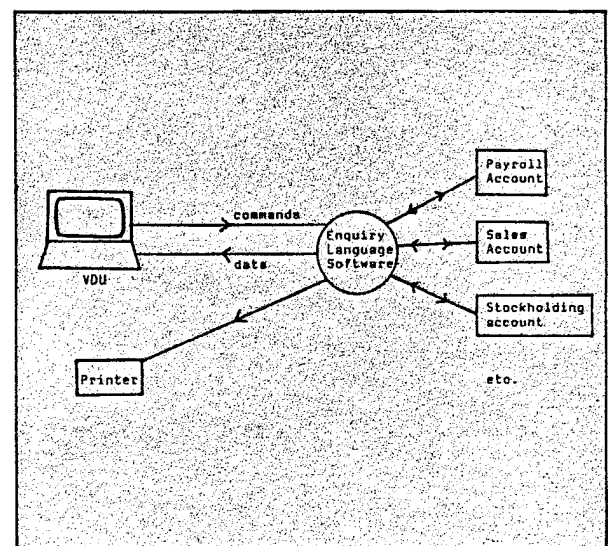
## Pick Operating System

Disc designs its systems around the Pick Operating System which is suitable for general purpose use and can be used on several models of computer. It is particularly appropriate for business and administration, and is ideally suited to searching, comparing and managing variable length fields, making it an outstanding system for managing data bases.



After officially opening the Videotex Users Show and conference John Butcher toured the stands. He is pictured centre visiting the ROCC stand talking to (left) Mike Aldrich – chief executive and (right) Bernard Ward, former manager marketing development and Andrew Trew, chairman of the Videotex Industry Association.

If proof is required of an industry on the move, then just look at the numerous companies designing and supplying videotex systems, both hardware and software and applying applications expertise. Andrew Trew can look forward to a busy time in bringing some



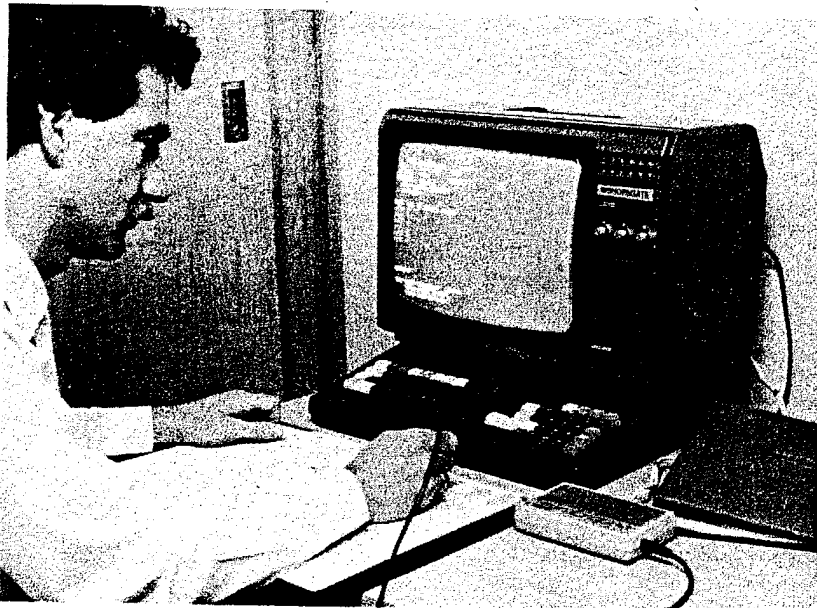
Using the account dictionaries, Enquiry Language selects information and compiles it.

# viewdata

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code reader successfully with dial-up facilities in 80 column format direct to the mainframe that won the £120K contract from Nabisco.

Security, speed and simplicity were essential requirements of the terminal's functional design, Nabisco



A Nabisco salesman at home uses a bar code reader to enter orders taken during the day to the company's mainframe computer via a customised Bishopsgate AVT 200 terminal.

wanted a system which would overcome the need for complex keying routines and long training sessions.

Most of the manual key sequences have been coded thus increasing the speed and accuracy with which the order process can be accomplished. System security is maintained by use of ID codes and the fast and accurate means of data entry provided by the Bishopsgate solution allows information gathered at the host to be processed overnight to provide order picking and management reports for the following morning. This contract provides availability of over 160 terminals for use by Nabisco.

## Horizon Travel Centres

Horizon Travel Centres is re-equipping its nationwide chain of outlets with new viewdata terminals, the terminal chosen is a customised version of the Bishopsgate multi-function Advanced Viewdata Terminal, the AVT 9.

This compact unit will access in-house data stored on Horizon's IBM compatible mainframe as well as many private and public viewdata services used by the travel industry.

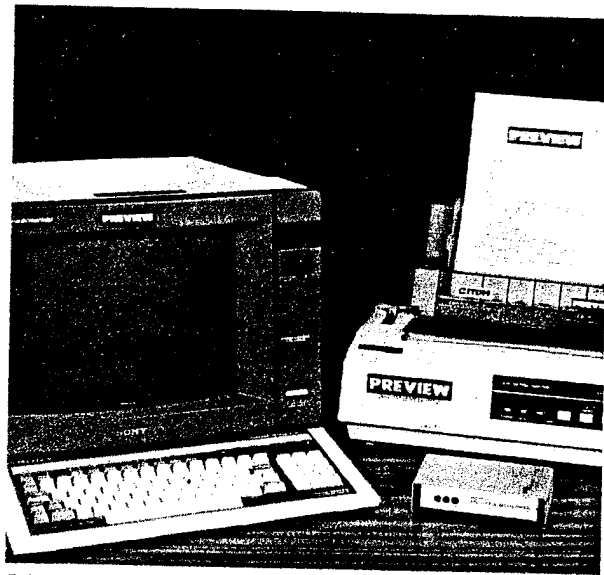
Horizon Travel Centres has successfully completed the pilot trial in four of its outlets and has now placed orders totalling some £90,000 on Bishopsgate for the re-equipment of all its retail agencies.

## Preview Data Systems Limited

Preview is supplying a compact electronic unit which for the first time enables viewdata host systems to provide secure on-line printing using existing protocols, called Streama, it will, operate with most standard terminals without the usual viewdata display screen format and control restrictions.

The viewdata host can determine the print format, such as a standard A4 letter. Alternatively Streama will provide the automatic re-formatting of the information shown on the screen into any specified format.

Streama also features error checking thus over-



**STREAMA** - Previews' solution to traditional dump printing problems.

coming the data corruption problems inherent in screen dump printing (namely line noise and other forms of interference both accidental and intentional).

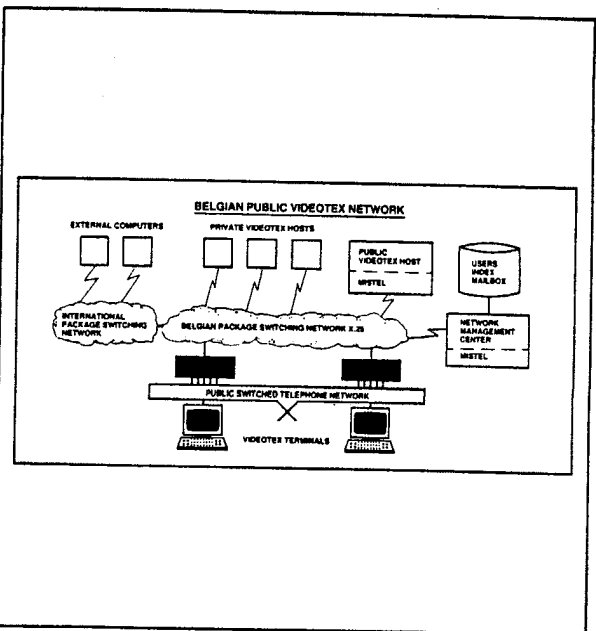
## Micro Scope

Operating from Taplow in Berkshire, Micro Scope have won a contract with IBM to supply a new type of network controller for their Information Network Services (INS) network in the Netherlands.

Micro Scope is supplying its new controllers to the International Network Centre (INC) of IBM, based in Zoetermeer in the Netherlands, which is responsible for an international communications network to a host of countries in Europe and to the USA and Japan. The network is composed of the national networks of the participating countries and the International Network Centre, at IBM's location in the Netherlands.

The new Videotex Terminal Controllers developed by Micro Scope are being used to provide access to the Business Videotex Services offered by IBM on its INS

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Schematic of the Belgian Public Videotex Network which centres on an established Xwtp packet switching network.

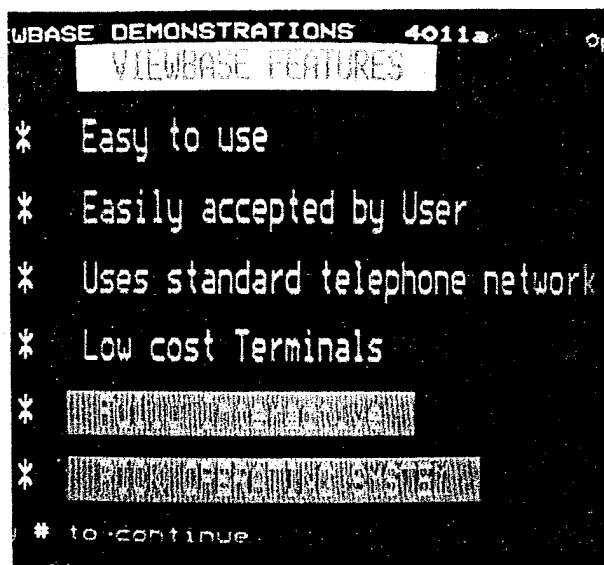
Pick also has a high-powered Enquiry Language which is known as non-procedural, i.e. the user does not have to specify a procedure for the processor to access the data from different files. He simply inputs a set of commands, similar to normal spoken language, which tell the computer which information to seek and how to collate it. This means that the whole of the data bases in the computer can be used to produce analyses and reports for rapid decision making.

David O'Malley, Chairman of Disc, said "These are exciting times for Disc International and its customers! It seems, there is no limit to the variety of videotex applications by the real-time versatility of view-base. We are a 'solutions company' offering to solve customers problems 'electronically' ". So I had a look at these problem solving systems:

### Viewbase

Is the Pick-based videotex system developed by Disc International. It enables users, via their TV set and telephone line to gain access to a computer in order to enter data, update files, interrogate the data base and analyse results.

Viewbase transforms a TV set into a realtime communications medium and is relevant to anyone who needs to interact with a computer. Currently viewbase is available for the following mini-computers: Microdata M6000 and M9000 series; Prime 50 series; Ultimate Computer's DEC models 7500 through 2000 (s) & Honeywell DPS6 C, D&E: ADDS models 2000 through 5300; General Automation models 750 through 6700; Aston Technology's Crystal; the TAU SNS 210 and the IBM PC/XT & PC/AT.



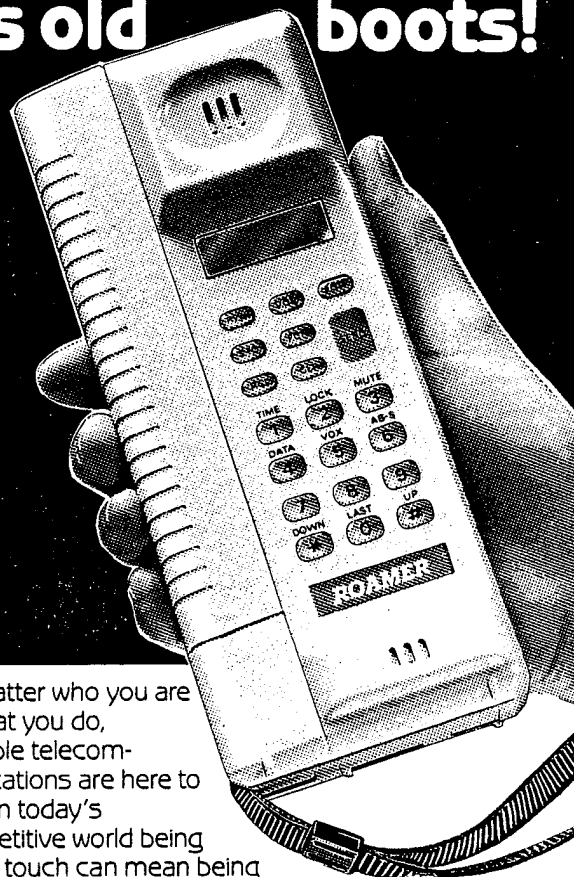
The Disc PICK-based videotex system enables users, via their TV set and telephone line to gain access to a computer.

### Bishopsgate Terminals Limited – A Case Study

Bishopsgate, headquartered in Old Woking has equipped Nabisco's home based salesforce of its grocery division with customised data entry terminals. Bar codes form an essential part of Nabisco's order entry process and the advanced viewdata terminals from Bishopsgate (AVT 200s) allow salesmen, using a bar code reader, to send their order requirements from home direct to Nabisco's IBM mainframe system. Nabisco is one of the UK's major food conglomerates and it was Bishopsgate's proposal to interface the bar

*continued on page 16*

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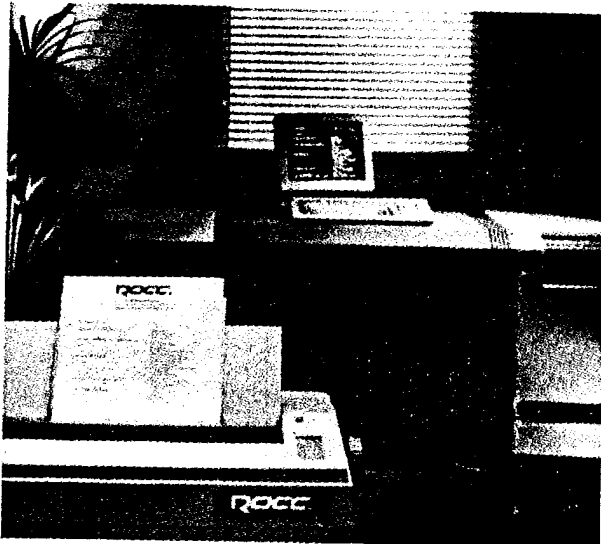
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Netherlands Network.

Micro Scope's videotex networking products are now installed throughout the world. The company's products form the basis of the largest videotex network in the world, that of Thomson Holidays, and have been supplied for the national videotex networks of Belgium, Norway, New Zealand and Denmark.

## ROCC, Computers

This company at Crawley, West Sussex offers "RIO" (ROCCs Integrated Office) which provides departmental, office and functional computing, combining high feature content, excellent integration and simplicity of operation. It includes a complete range of facilities including word processing, electronic mail, relational data base, spread sheets etc, but all presented to the user as a single coherent system. By simple operations, information may be passed between applications and married together, subject to the security and classification options chosen.



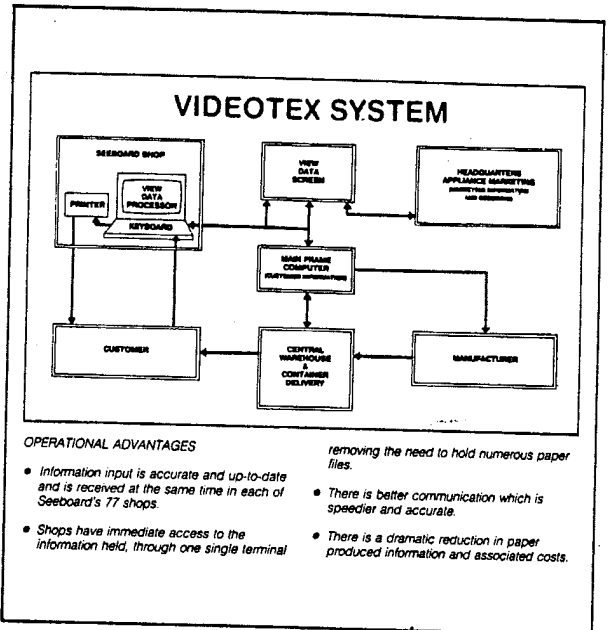
3820 office system showing ROCC 30, ROCC 50+ terminals and a ROCC 210 matrix printer.

Rio is the perfect platform for developing departmental systems. It can be easily tailored to meet individual requirements, and incorporates extensive networking and communications facilities to access external computers.

## Video At The Point Of Sale

The ROCC videotex system has been supplied to Seaboard, and is operating in all but a few of their 77 shops. The shops not yet linked into the system are in two out of Seaboard's ten districts - South East Sussex and Kingston. They are also the shops not so far operating a new containerised delivery service. A fundamental requirement of this service, which does away with the reloading of vehicles at district transit stores, is the ability that the videotex system supplies, of reserving appliances and booking delivery space at the point of sale.

Seaboard employs around 300 sales staff in its 77 shops, the majority being part-timers working rotas that vary from shop to shop, exacerbating the problem of keeping staff updated with information. Part of the problem has been the dual role that the electricity shop has to play. As well as existing as conventional retailing outlets, the shops act as a point of contact for energy consumers, providing a complete service by giving advice, answering queries on all aspects of the Boards business and collecting accounts. The staff have to cope with this and have to be conversant with details of a



Block diagram of the Seaboard videotex system supplied by ROCC.

widely diverse range of other goods, so it is seen that they must access to an up to date data base. The ROCC videotex system provides this.

## Micronet 800, Telemap Limited

Micronet 800 began operating in 1983 and offers owners of home computers access to Micronet's 'Mailbox' service, reads an extract from "The Micronet Story" and access to over 40,000 frames of the Micronet data base. Their press release in March indicates.

## Viewdata Accounting Service To Be Launched and goes on

Today's financial institutions are undergoing great change and are now competing heavily for new business using increasingly aggressive marketing techniques.

In the world of accounting, the larger firms now offer very comprehensive and competitive portfolios for their customers, often leaving the smaller accountants struggling to compete; the enormous amount of form filling required for tax regulations take up a great deal of time for the smaller practices leaving them unable to provide the enhanced investment and money management services that the big boys are offering.

A new accounting service from MAS, however, is now available in the Bizznet area of Micronet 800 with access to all users on Prestel. This will be the first time that all types of businesses have access to a remote processing facility, enabling them to carry out their accounting practices at a substantially reduced cost, to that of conventional accounting methods.

The mechanics of the service are as follows: Payments and receipts are entered on to a screen using a micro computer or Prestel terminal. When completed, the information is electronically transmitted to MAS where the accounts are processed and returned in a comprehensive, detailed analysis of the business.

The press release states that MAS were established in 1964 and are one of the most widely used and independent confidential accounting service in the UK.

## Thorn EMI Business Communications

Among the big viewdata users is Thorn EMI

Television Rentals, which incorporates, Thorn EMI Business Communications, DER, Multibroadcast and Focus. The group runs two ICL 2900 VME mainframes from their headquarters in Swindon, with 14 Sperry Univac V77 minis situated around the country and connected to Swindon through 9600 Datel service. Each of the around 1500 high street outlets has a point of sale till and an IBT viewdata terminal from Thorn EMI Business Communications which has an auto answer modem and its own integrated error checking protocol. Within the viewdata terminal there is a stock

control programme with the point of sale (POS) terminal connected via a standard RS232 interface. At the close of business each day the V77's poll the unattended terminals which pull off the day's cash information from the Electronic Point Of Sale (EPOS) and pass it, along with stock information from its own memory, down the line to the V77. All tills are polled in around 40 minutes giving a comprehensive picture of all cash and equipment transactions carried out by each branch daily.

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Thorn EMI Business Communications Viewdata equipment in action at Lloyds Bank, where it is used for insurance quotations and on-the-spot loans.

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## Disc Host Japan Videotex Association

Members of Japan's Videotex Promotional Association: Mission at a demonstration of the Host Group's Public House management system - the UK catering industry's largest videotex system which uses Disc International's Viewbase software to provide instant stock, sales and management information from Host's nationwide chain of public houses and restaurants.

## Lloyds Bank

Lloyds Bank has installed over 1550 Thorn EMI Viewdata terminal equipment manufactured by Sony, in their high street branches. The terminal will allow each of Lloyd's branches to offer a range of customer services such as on the spot loans and insurance quotations.

The latest introduction from BT National Networks is the VPAD which allows a standard viewdata terminal to access PSS. By renting the networks for their systems, the user can avoid the need to invest in a private network.

## Sony (UK) Limited

In an order worth £350,000, 250 Sony KTX1420 viewdata terminals and associated peripheral equipment have been installed in Woolwich Equitable Building Society branches throughout the UK. At each branch, the terminals are linked via the telephone network to the computer databases of the country's major life assurance companies, so now, the Woolwich can offer a range of insurance services to the general public, as well as providing customers seeking a mortgage with an instant quotation, tailored to meet their exact requirements, for an endowment mortgage.

The Woolwich's viewdata system was supplied by Sony dealer, Preview Data Systems, and comprises the KTX1420 terminals with K1104 keyboards, C.Itoh 8510 printers and the Streama On-Line printing device.

All branch managers and staff will be able to access the viewdata system and so provide a faster and more accurate response than ever before. In fact, proposal documentation may, be issued direct from the life

assurance company to the Woolwich branch office concerned via the Preview 'Streama' device.

John Stewart, Life Services Manager for the Woolwich commented, "We evaluated the market very carefully and although there are a number of alternatives, we felt the combination of Sony terminals coupled with 'Streama' was difficult to beat. We have also had experience of Preview's excellent co-ordination and training capabilities and had no hesitation in appointing them for the project.

## Alcatel 254/Blick International

Telic Alcatel, of France is offering through Blick International the Alcatel 254 which is a personal information terminal intended for professional use for videotex applications.

It also functions in ASCII mode and provides a good number of operating possibilities in the two working modes, i.e. ASCII and videotex.

Features Include:

Television peripheral socket; 4 page memory for videotex or ASCII operation; 12 button keypad; Loudspeaker to monitor number dialling; Choice of Prestel/videotex/Data Processing.

## Multicom Package

Developed by Richard Cumming & Associates, MULTICOM communications software is a powerful and professional package allowing the user access to public and private viewdata systems worldwide: to traditional 80 columns databases, electronic mail and telex services such as Telecom Gold; and in user-to-user mode for file transfer between systems. A sophisticated disk handling and Command File system automates the processes of logging on and passwords and can control a complete sequence of information retrieval and storage.

A major feature of the MULTICOM package lies in its ability to strip information from viewdata pages for use in spread sheets, data management and word processing systems - a feature particularly appreciated by users of CitiService.

MULTICOM is compatible with most popular business micros including IBM PC/XT/AT and look alikes under PC DOS 2 or 3, Apricot PC/Xi and F Series under MSDOS 2, Victor/Sirius under MSDOS 1 or 2 and a number of CP/M-80 systems. It will work with any suitable auto or manual dial modem.

The feature-rich product is continually developed keeping it in line with - and often ahead of - market demands. Recent enhancements include XModem file transfer protocols, extended Command File features and the support of the new CEPT Processable Data Protocols. Richard Cumming is firmly committed to this last development which is of particular interest to the insurance industry - secure printing can already be demonstrated using MULTICOM.

Available in two versions, MULTICOM and MULTICOM Plus (for the IBM only), the software is supported by Interlex Telehelp's helpline. Full information is available from Richard Cumming & Associates 7 Holtwood Road, Oxshott, Leatherhead, Surrey. KT22 0QL. Tel: 037 284-2345 Prestel Mailbox: 01 970 2345 Telecom Gold: 76:SJJ096.

## Vistec Videotex Range

The new Philips 14" Videotex terminal is now available from Vistec, the largest supplier of Viewdata systems in the UK.

The HCS 110 is a high performance terminal

available to all levels of business user, regular and casual, and easily accessible to the complete beginner. The 14" terminal – clearly readable at a distance, is particularly suitable for audience viewing or frequent use.

It incorporates advanced hardware and software facilities, designed for maximum ease at minimum running cost. The modular hardware – separately housed decoder box, monitor and keyboard – facilities free location of units, and re-configuration or upgrading at anytime at minimum cost.

The software provides sympathetic on screen operational guidance, and the user can go on-line automatically, can access information, store it and disconnect.

Other additional features include SEND facilities, page carousel, hard copy page printing, audio-cassette page recording and replay, and screen editing.

Heading up Vistec's Viewdata operations, Peter Dilger commented, "The new Philips 14" terminal is exceptionally user-friendly and incorporates many sensible cost control devices. We are delighted to add it to our range of high quality Viewdata products".

## Viewtext Limited

Viewdata, a member of the Applied Telematics Group of Companies, operating from Tunbridge Wells have received an order from Addis Limited for a Saleman's Order Entry System.

Addis limited, the houseware and bathroom goods specialists, have ordered a complete sales input system which includes a central computer and 38 terminals, together with all the necessary software and communications equipment to enable Addis salesmen to

complete customer orders from their homes and to pass these orders directly to the central computer for processing.

The system operates as follows: Addis HQ staff design forms for input using the standard 'computex editor.' The forms are full colour viewdata frames with special fields that identify them as being "Masks" or templates for input data. The salesman at home presses one key to connect to the central computer over the telephone network and enters his personal ID and password. He has access to the latest prices update and can also input to the order entry account.

Multiple orders may be input in batches and when the salesman is satisfied that everything is satisfactory, he simply presses the 'send' button on the terminal and the data is speedily transferred to the central computer.

In the coming months Addis plan to introduce a wide range of new functions, including extensive use of the electronic mail and information handling facilities, which have been provided with the package. Interactive applications which will be among the first to be introduced, will be order status, customer profiling and product news.

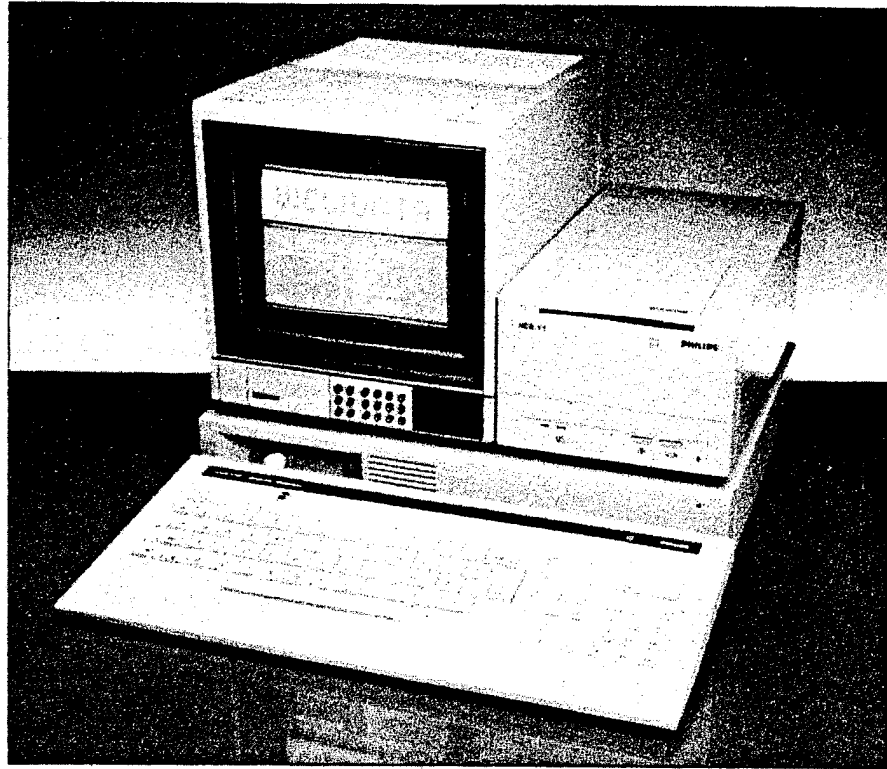
## Philips Business Systems

Philips Business Systems of Colchester present their Executive Viewdata Terminal HCS 110 which comprises 3 basic units. The Plinth, The Monitor, The Printer.

Philips claim that this modular concept enables users to freely locate units for optimum comfort and to reconfigure or upgrade at any time at minimum cost.

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**HCS110 by Philips Business Systems - an advanced Executive viewdata terminal.**



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The HCS 110 is a high performance Videotex terminal designed for the business user. Operation is fast and easy so that casual users can also enjoy the full benefits of a professional system. The design philosophy, which was to create a terminal offering user comfort, has resulted in a range of advanced facilities in both hardware and software.

The software has been designed for maximum ease of use. Instructions and helpful information appear directly on the screen so that even an absolute beginner can operate the system.

Users can go on-line automatically, obtain the information they need quickly and easily, store it for future reference if required and disconnect.

In this way telephone call charges are minimised and the line is kept open for normal traffic. The HCS 110 achieves this by incorporating facilities such as automatic dialling of telephone numbers, helpful indexing, directory displays and internal memory, enabling videotex pages to be stored in the terminal itself.

**Point of Sale:** Philips say that the HCS Executive is ideal for point of sale applications offers a whole range of benefits, VCR and videodisc playback, off-air broadcast, fully programmable page carousel. Together with the security of a hard copy record of the transaction for the customer.

## Hagenuk

Hagenuk launched their Videotex Telephone MST 300 at the Hanover Fair and it comprises of a videotex telephone and a colour monitor. The whole system is of compact and ergonomic design. Within a small space all functions of a featurephone and operational functions for videotex have been incorporated. Two exchange lines can be connected to the videotex telephone in order to ensure simultaneous videotex operation and network use. Furthermore there are connections for external diskette stores in which videotex pages can be stored.

A few of th MST's features:

Storage capacity for 300 entries, Storage capacity of up to 31 pages, Charge Metering for Telephone and Videotex service, Connection for Personal Computer, Voice Monitoring/Hands Free Speech, Single Key Abbreviated Dialling.

## Vicorp Air Call

Two major forces in the videotex market have joined together to form a new company called Vicorp Air Call Videotex Limited which will concentrate its initial efforts marketing 'Betex' software in the expanding UK sector.

'Betex' software is fully operational, incorporating on-line editing facilities to CEPT, Teletel and Prestel standards. NAPLPS and MUPID standards have also been completed recently.

In addition to recent notable contracts for 'Betex', including Du-Pont, SAS - the Scandinavian airline and Gotabanken, the newly formed company inherits a healthy batch of signed contract commitments for the first half of 1986.

'Betex' software is operational to the same standard on Tandem Nonstop and Hewlett-Packard 3000 computers. Currently, seven European PTT Gateways have been approved.

## ISTEL Ltd

Istel featured in the May issue of *Comms Monthly* within the VANS article and the company's network activities were explained. Sufficient then for the June issue to describe their COMET Electronic Mail, facility.

COMET is the foremost electronic mail system available in the UK and elsewhere in the US and Europe is how it was explained to me when I visited ISTE's HQ in Redditch recently.

Using the BT PSS network, a private network, or ISTE's own nationwide COMET/VIEWSHARE network, any company may run COMET under licence. As a BT approved system, users have complete freedom to communicate with other COMET users, both inside and

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Hagenut's videotex telephone and colour monitor.

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outside their organisation. Those companies who do not have the machine or financial resources to run an in-house COMET system may subscribe to ISTELE's system indefinitely.

COMET is available to run on either DEC PDP11 or plug compatible computer, using the RX-11M Plus operating systems. Alternatively IBM users may buy a similar licence to run the system on any machine in the 360, 370, 303X and 4300 range of systems or plug compatible machines. IBM operating systems supported, include MVS, SVS, VM, OD, MFT and MVT.

A small COMET configuration running, say, on a PDP 11/34 with 16 ports, can support up to 600

subscribers. Terminals connected to COMET may be hard wired (on-line) or by a normal telephone receiver with an acoustic coupler or modem.

How do you get started? Simple: just give ISTELE a call and ask for a trial.

DATEC is another company where I paid a visit and this company was also featured in the May issue of *Comms Monthly* therefore, I only intend describing a Turnkey Project in this article.

## Mediatel

Mediatel provides the advertising industry with up-to-date information on the costs of using various types of media, for example, television, radio and

posters. Details of the readership and coverage of newspapers and magazines is also available.

During 1985 Mediatel considered installing a private viewdata system to allow them to make several enhancements to their service. Two of their major requirements were a need to increase client/database interaction and the use of computer software to generate frames dynamically from the raw input data.

DATEC was able to fulfil Mediatel's requirements and enable Mediatel's clients to access the 4000 pages on their two databases for the price of a low cost telephone call.

DATEC provided the network, hardware and software. The hardware is a Hewlett-Packard mini-computer, supplied under agreement with HP. The software is Prestel compatible enabling a smooth and transparent transition for Mediatel's clients from the old system to the new DATEC service.

Escalating costs of administration were controlled. As all HP processors are fully compatible, upgrades required as the system expands will be less costly. Peripherals can be retained and Hewlett-Packard have a comprehensive low cost maintenance plan.

Having all the processing in-house has enabled Mediatel to enhance their system by offering more advanced interactive techniques in response to client demand.

DATEC was able to provide Mediatel with the total solution to its requirements. The whole process was handled by DATEC ensuring Mediatel had a smooth transition from one system to another.

By using the DATEC network, Mediatel is able to offer most of their clients low cost access to the system, which in turn enables Mediatel to expand its customer base in any part of the UK.

## Prestel

The forerunner of all videotex systems, BT did the industry a favour by introducing Prestel and can take some of the credit for the surge in videotex growth, and of course, Prestel is no 'lame duck' itself. It offers a range of services such as:

Teleshopping, Education Service, Farmlink, Travel, Carpet Service and others.

The Carpet Service is now featured:

A leaflet published by BT describes how a carpet retailer of Ipswich believes in Prestel.

Peter Barnes of Barnes of Ipswich reads the heading on the leaflet.

Barnes of Ipswich is a family concern established for 58 years, selling carpets, beds and soft furnishings.

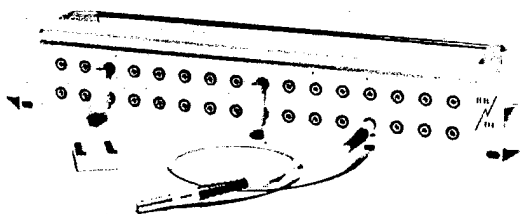
Peter Barnes runs the busy and successful business and he is an enthusiastic user of the Prestel carpet service. He tells in his own words how the carpet service works for him.

"I've been a user of Prestel for over a year now. So far I've used it to deal mainly with Tomkinsons but I am very pleased more suppliers are coming onto the carpet service. In my opinion its just what the carpet trade needs to bring it up to date.

The great advantage of the carpet service to me is that it gives me a direct link to my supplier at any time, day or night, so I have instant access whenever I need it. Its so simple to use, anyone can learn to operate it in a matter of minutes without any special training being needed.

"Using Prestel I can check if a carpet is available, and then place an order, all in a matter of seconds. So now I don't have to lose a sale because I can't tell a customer

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on the spot if I can get the carpet they want or not.

"Speed of ordering is important to me. With some big stores quoting delivery times of several weeks delay, I aim to achieve quicker results than that. For example, using Prestel I placed an order with Tomkinsons one Thursday and got delivery early the following Tuesday – and without marketing it urgent. Full marks, to Tomkinsons but Prestel cut out all unnecessary delays.

Prestel also saves me money! I am one of the 98% of the users who only pay local call charge rates when they use Prestel. I've estimated that saves me £10 a week on telephone bills – and that's with only using it to deal with one supplier up to date".

Note: Peter Barnes went on to further sing the praises of Prestel but that gives you a flavour of a satisfied customer.

To conclude then: The future looks very bright for viewdata, with home shopping and banking set to finally

bring viewdata into the home. Already the Royal Bank of Scotland and the Nottingham Building Society offer a home banking facility to customers who can monitor their balances and swap funds between accounts using domestic terminals.

Andrew Trew is enthusiastic about the future of videotex and it is hoped that his enthusiasm is contagious and that designers, suppliers and users alike are smitten, then we may really see videotex accelerating along the 'fast lane'.

Authors note: Thanks to those who sent up-to-date information for this article particularly Steve Brookman of Thorn EMI Business Systems who allowed me to use extracts from his paper on viewdata.

Finally Andrew Trew who is chairman of the Videotex Industries Association would like to see more lobbying of government to persuade them "To measure the scope of the industry" by including comparisons in the official statistics publications.

## Viewdata Suppliers

Disc International Limited  
40/41 St James Street  
Taunton, Somerset

Tel: 0283-85292  
Telex: 46568 DISC G

Bishopsgate Terminals Ltd  
The Old Braw House  
130, High Street  
Old Woking, Surrey GU22 9LD  
Rosmarie Dodd  
PR Manager

Tel: (04862) 27241  
Telex: 859272 BISHOP G  
Fax: (04862) 25381

Preview Data Systems Ltd  
Unit 6D, Rose Estates  
Cores End Road  
Bourne End  
Bucks. SL8 5BA

Tel: (06285) 29213

Micro Scope Videotex Systems  
Micro Scope Ltd  
Mill Lane  
Taplow, Maidenhead  
Berkshire SL6 0AA

Tel: (0628) 72047  
Fax: (0628) 781377  
Telex: 846103 MSCOPE G

ROCC Computers Ltd  
Kelvin Way, Crawley  
West Sussex RA10 2LY

Tel: (0293) 31211

Micronet 800  
Telemap Ltd  
8, Herbal Hill  
London EC1R 5EJ

Tel: (01) 278 3143  
Telex: 32157

Thorn EMI  
Natalie McKay  
Penn Communications Ltd  
11-12 The Green  
Ealing, London W5 5DA

Tel: (01) 840 7200  
Telex: (01) 840 7564

Sony UK Ltd  
Sony House  
South Street, Staines  
Middx TW18 4PF

Tel: Staines 61688

Alcatel 254  
Blick International Systems Ltd  
Blick House  
Techno-Trading Estate  
Bramble Road  
Swindon SN2 6FR  
or  
Telic Alcatel  
4, Rue de Cheully  
94267 Fresnes Cedex  
France

Tel: (1) 666 2119  
Telex: 60 037 F

Datec  
Bedford House  
Park Street, Taunton  
Somerset TA1 4DB

Tel: (0823) 57041  
Telex: 46150 DATEC G

Phillips Business Systems  
Elektra House  
Bergholt Road  
Colchester  
Essex CO4 5BE

Tel: (0206) 575115  
Telex: 98673

Istel Ltd  
PO Box 5  
Grosvenor House  
Prospect Hill, Redditch  
Worcestershire B97 4DQ

Tel: (0527) 64274  
Telex: 335269

Hagen UK  
A Division of Salzgitter London  
G 5, Well Lane, Milford  
Derby DE5 0QQ

Tel: (0332) 842298  
Telex: 37749 MKLGIN G

Viewtext Ltd  
Tunbridge Wells  
7, Vale Avenue  
Kent TN1 1DJ

Tel: (0892) 45178  
Telex: 95398 TELEMA G

Vicorp Aircall Videotex Ltd  
Air Call House  
105-111 High Street  
Houghton Regis  
Dunstable, Beds LU5 5EL

Tel: (0582) 603123  
Telex: 82180

Prestel  
Telephone House  
Temple Avenue  
London EC4Y 0HL  
(Mike Abbott)

Tel: (01) 822 1122  
Tel Direct: 822 1056  
Fax: (01) 583 6262  
Telex: 261040

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU  
Lancaster House,  
70 Newington Causeway, London, S.E.1

Extract from  
Which Computer, London

-- JUN 1986

## **ROCC makes** <sup>4566</sup> **machine splash**

Computer colonialism is dead, says Rocc Computers' chief executive Mike Aldrich. What users really want is "an open road to the future" and he believes Rocc can provide it.

Speaking at the launch of five new computer systems, Aldrich outlined his company's policy of moving existing users along a path to hardware and software independence using Unix. "The benefits to our users are that they will enjoy both long-term protection of their software investment and the freedom of choice in finding the best hardware vehicles," he says.

Three of the new models are developments of Rocc's 2800 range, launched back in 1982. The 2800 application processing system and the 2825 and 2835 multi-user office computers are largely compatible with previous systems. All are 16-bit, multi-microcomputer systems which run a new operating system called D.

Available from September this year D will be developed in parallel with a new system builder, C-Check II. The latter combines a system generator, a program generator, a database management system and a toolkit.

The 2800 models will sell for between £30,000 and £50,000.

The company's plans for the future also lifted the lid on the 3800 and 4800 ranges. These are both 32-bit-based multi-micros which use VME architecture, Unix office software and C-Check II. The office software covers all major office functions from word processing and spreadsheets to diary and electronic mail. The 3800 will be shipped before the end of the year; the 4800 in late 1987.