# Displays news

## Flat panel display for mobile equipment

A flat panel ac plasma display has been launched which is aimed at small data terminals, especially those exposed to harsh environmental conditions, for example mobile and outdoor equipment. The display from Thomson-CSF's Electron Tube Division has a 96 × 200 dot format and can display up to 12 lines of 32 characters on a 6 × 8 cell, or 6 lines of 25 characters on an 8 × 16 cell. In a graphic mode, the cell pitch of 0.90 mm gives a resolution of 11 lines $cm^{-1}$. The dot address time, for both inscription and erasure, is 30$\mu$s and the entire display can be accessed in 72 ms.

The TH 7619's low power consumption, typically 10 W, makes it suitable for installations which are in confined environments which operate from auxiliary power sources. Its overall dimensions of 260 mm × 155 mm × 33 mm are identical to those of the TH 7612 (12 × 40 character alphanumeric display), from which it is derived.

The TH 7619 operates at temperatures between −10 and +60°C (at 90% relative humidity), and can withstand vibrations of 3 G between 5 and 55 Hz. Advantages of ac plasma technology include: unlimited lifetime (no ageing of the electrodes), at 160° viewing angle, and inherent memory, which means that no 'scanning' or other forms of data refresh are required. Moreover, the flicker-free display is easy on the eyes and offers a high degree of contrast and luminance (adjustable to 150 cd $m^{-2}$).

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## Philips heads east

In two recent ventures with the Far East, Philips of the Netherlands has furthered its interests in electronic displays.

The first of these involves the signing of an agreement in principle, with the Electronics Industry Department of Jiangsu Province of the People's Republic of China, to build a colour CRT factory in Nanjing, based on Philips' latest technology. The objective of the venture is to produce, market and sell colour tubes and deflection coils. The new factory will have an annual manufacturing capacity of 1.5M tubes and coils and is expected to be operational by the end of 1987. Philips will supply machinery, components and tools for manufacturing the products.

The second initiative is an agreement for Sharp Corporation of Japan to transfer technical information and knowledge on factory automation in the field of LCDs to Philips. Sharp will also supply equipment and tools for manufacturing LCDs. At the same time Philips and Sharp have licensed each other under their respective relevant patent rights.

One result of this collaboration, is that the methods for the design and manufacture of LCDs used by the two companies will be compatible. This will offer customers of either party the opportunity of a second source.

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## Worldwide computer graphics

Transmission of high quality computer graphics to and from databases in any part of the world is possible using the Presenter terminal from Telegraphix Ltd and DISC International's Viewbase videotex software. Any combination of text, numerical data and computer graphics can be received, transmitted, edited and combined to give presentation quality management or sales promotion programmes. These complete programmes, held on a database, can be accessed by a Presenter in any part of the world using data transmission networks.

This would allow, for instance, a full description of a car or aircraft, including detailed diagrams, text, illustrations and detail animation, in full colour to be transmitted on demand between London and New York. This programme could be edited, extended or modified in response to each recipient's demand for new information. The Presenter allows the programme to be displayed on giant TV display screens or on a simple desktop monitor.

Systems available, using the Telegraphix Presenter, DISC software and a variety of mainframes, will be able to process and transmit all types of numerical data and videotex graphics including Prestel, the North American standards of NAPLPS and Telidon, and the European standards, such as Bildschirmtext (CEPT, Level III). The systems will also be able to handle popular CAD/CAM standards such as Tektronix 4010.

Data communications, database and image processing power can be based on Prime, Microdata or IBM machines.

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