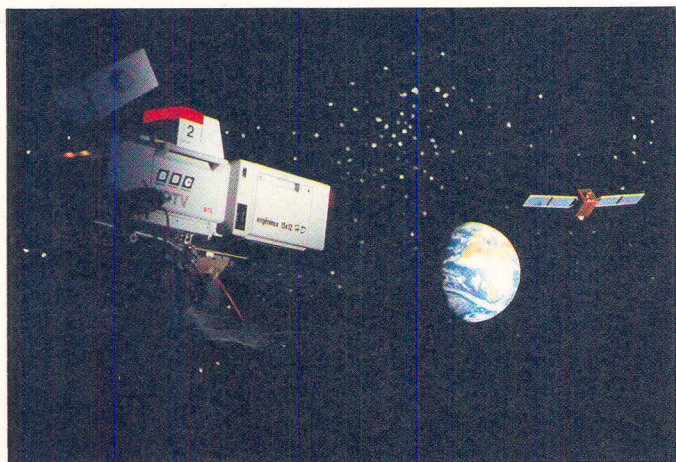


ENGINEERING

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IBC 88 — THE YEAR OF HDTV!

The 12th International Broadcasting Convention - IBC 88 - was held in Brighton at the end of September. This year, the exhibition occupied not only the same venues as IBC 86 (the Metropole, the Brighton Centre and the Grand Hotel) but two new areas as well - the West Pier Pavilion and the new Eureka Pavilion, both flanking the outdoor exhibit area on the lower esplanade. With this extended capacity, the number of exhibitors passed the 200 mark for the first time.



Opening caption for the first commissioned programme in the 1250-line format, made at BBC Milton Keynes

Bill Denny, Director of Engineering, had this to say about IBC 88:

"My own overall impression of IBC 88 was based on three elements. In the display areas, the developing of 625-line PAL production equipment - seen in its 525-line NTSC mode at previous exhibitions - was obvious. Small formats for television; digital developments in audio and video equipment; more sophistication in such areas as video effects and much improved CCD cameras, were all very evident. This gave the impression of an industry consolidating an established product base."

"In the presentation of papers we saw much more of the high technology of the future, both immediate

and more distant. Many papers on enhanced television were presented whilst in the exhibition areas, with two major exceptions, such developments were presented in fairly low key. The two exceptions were of course, the Eureka Pavilion and the Hi-Vision display at the University. Both were impressive but in totally different ways, as befits totally different messages being delivered."

"Eureka, with pride, was announcing a mid-term report showing it to be on course to meet its 1990 objectives. It represents a major success of international collaboration and collective technical innovation, whilst at the same time showing how much work needs to be done and what hurdles have to be cleared before the initiative becomes a broadcasting reality."

"The Hi-Vision display was what was to be expected from a system over eight years old in operation; the images, both visual and aural, were therefore suitably impressive. Eureka and Hi-Vision indicate the difficulties facing major broadcasters as we move towards enhanced television standards; my over-riding impression of IBC 88, from a personal view point, was the highlighting of these difficulties in an industry which is clearly in a robustly healthy condition."

A special feature on BBC Engineering at IBC 88 begins on page 4.

RDS TAKES OFF

RDS was launched as a new service on 20 September at a special presentation in the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre in Westminster, London. It was hosted by Mr Marmaduke Hussey, Chairman of the BBC, in the presence of HRH Prince Michael Of Kent, who has many links with the motoring and radio industries.

See page 3 for a report on the launching ceremony.

