

Note from Bert Gallon, Chief Engineer, Resources

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MONITORING AND MANAGEMENT OF THE BBC's TRANSMISSION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS

The BBC's Transmitter Networks are monitored and controlled from five centres that were brought into service almost 20 years ago, using equipment and systems largely designed by the BBC.

The system was a technological leader at the time but has now reached the end of its useful life and will shortly be replaced by a new "off the shelf" system that will be operated from the recently created Technical Operations Centre at Warwick. Replacement of the existing five centres by a single centre has been made possible by the developments in technology and the improvements in equipment reliability that have taken place in the years following the design and installation of the original system. Use of a single centre has enabled Transmission to implement a major restructuring of their organisation and staffing levels that will be fully implemented by 1 July 1995 and will have reduced Transmission costs by some £2.5Mpa.

Transfer of the responsibilities of the five Monitoring and Information Centres to the Warwick Technical Operations Centre will start next month and be completed by the end of March 1995. The Warwick Technical Operations Centre is already providing a 24-hour Monitoring and Help Desk Service for operators of the BBC Telecommunications Voice and Data Networks and the staff have already established a good reputation for resolving problems, ensuring rapid correction of faults and providing advice on a wide range of Telecommunications issues.

Technical Operations Centre staff will also be responsible for the management of the Energis/BBC Broadcast Network that will replace the existing BT Broadcast Network which will be introduced on 1 January 1995.

Martin Ellen, Head of Technical Operations Centre, is discussing the operational details of these new developments with your staff to ensure that the transfer to the new arrangement is effected as smoothly as possible and that your respective areas obtain the service that they require. Martin would be pleased to provide any further information that you may need.