Redifon in Russia

The Monument to Soviet Space Achievement stands in front of the main entrance to the National Economic Achievements Exhibition, Moscow.

First R850 for USSR

V/O PRODINTORG, which is a significant Foreign Trade Enterprise in the USSR, has ordered a Redifon R850 to control the administration and procedures relating to the commercial aspects of its activities.

V/O Prodintorg specialises in the import and export of foodstuffs of animal origin, such as caviar, tinned fish and crabmeat, dairy and meat products, as well as live animals such as thoroughbred horses, pedigree cattle, and animals for Zoos.

The R850 will be used from the time of original contract through to the placing of orders with suppliers, collection and shipment of goods, and the receipt/payment of monies due under contract. The R850, which is equipped with ten visual display units, will be used by the appropriate clerical staff responsible for such activities, and at the same time provide management with overall summaries to ensure that no aspects are overlooked in the control of complicated and far flung requirements. The ability of the R850 to work in real-time modes, not only in cyrillic, but many of the foreign languages used in a thriving import/export business, was a prime consideration in the selection of the R850.

This sale is of particular significance to Redifon. It is the first of its new R-range to the Soviet Union, its first within the Ministry of Foreign Trade, an acknowledged authority on computer utilisation in the USSR, and opens a vista of opportunities within the other sixty Foreign Trade Enterprises.

Configuration: Central processor, 33MB disk, 9-track 800bpi tape drive, 10 terminals, six terminal printers and 165cps serial printer.

Contract value: £100,000 (approximately).

Redifon exhibit at "Informtechnika '79"

TWO R850 distributed data processing systems were exhibited at "Informtechnika '79" (an International Computer Exhibition) in Moscow from February 14-23.

The R850's were shown with cyrillic visual displays, multi-terminal printers, 33MB disks, line printer and data communications facilities.

There were many unique and first-time features of the Redifon system. For example, it was the first-time that Redifon had publicly exhibited in Eastern Europe keystations linked to a closed circuit television system interchangeable between a number of 20 inch monitors and a seven foot television screen. Live demonstrations were also given of data transmissions to remote keystations and to a Redifon R400 data entry system installed at Progress Publishers in Moscow. Redifon engineers also interfaced one of the keystations to an OCR wand device.
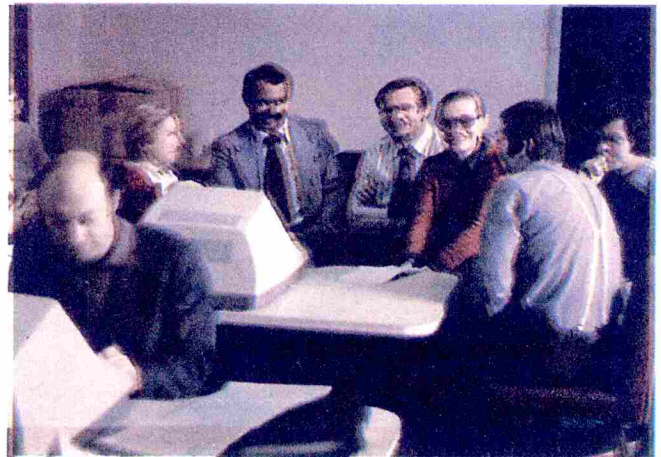
No other competitor at the exhibition could equal the overall versatility of the Redifon demonstrations and equipment. Indeed, hardly any could demonstrate actual live work from their Soviet installations nor did they have Soviet end user specialists who attended the exhibition in order to give advice and assistance to other Soviet specialists in applications of distributed data processing and management routines.

Another unique event was that the organisation and administration of Informtechnika, a computer exhibition, was actually computerised by time-sharing the R850's on display. Not only was a data base created of all exhibitors, their products and their staff, but it was used in the charging and billing of the exhibitors.

For Redifon the exhibition was undoubtedly a great success and included the signing of a contract for a second R850 system by Progress Publishers worth £112,000 mentioned below.

REDIFON have delivered an R400 data entry system to Progress Publishers in Moscow for evaluation on behalf of the Printing and Publishing Industry. Since the installation last year, a large number of Soviet specialists have visited the site and, although there are only eight keystations, on occasions there have been as many as six different organisations programming the systems, at the same time.

As a result of this successful co-operation between the two companies, Progress Publishers have now placed orders for two R850 distributed data processing systems.

Urszula Nartowicz—Installation Supervisor [sitting beside a terminal] with a group of Prodintorg specialists who are receiving training at Progress Publishers, Moscow.