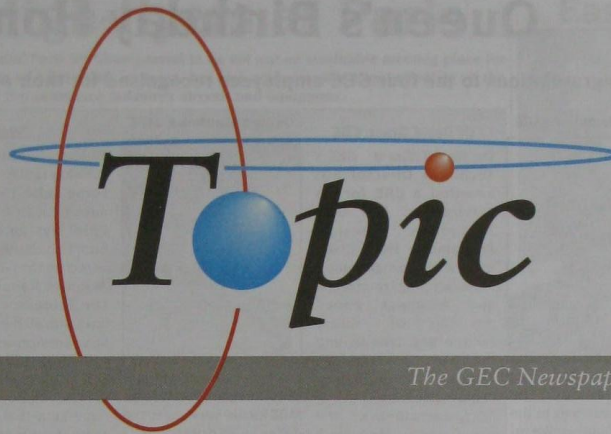


Special
annual
results
pull-out

pages 7-10



Right to
reply
readers'
questionnaire

page 16

The GEC Newspaper

July 1997

GEC ALSTHOM's £100 million order offers South West Trains a fresh approach



An artist's impression of the Juniper train.

GEC ALSTHOM Metro-Cammell has been selected to build 30 Juniper trains at its Washwood Heath factory in one of the UK's largest railway orders in recent years. The trains, built for Stagecoach-owned Porterbrook Leasing, will run on South West Trains' Waterloo/Reading Line service.

Tailor-made

The Juniper trains are developed specifically to meet the new and diverse requirements of the privatised rail industry. Based on a standard engineering design, they can be customised to each individual

train company's specifications, depending on the length and type of route on which the train will run. An extra option for Porterbrook Leasing, for example, is saloon and cab air conditioning.

Commenting on this latest order, GEC ALSTHOM Metro-Cammell's Managing Director Peter Murray said, "These are exciting times for GEC ALSTHOM Metro-Cammell and its workforce. Our new customers are rightly demanding a fresh approach for the supply of new trains. We feel confident that our approach is what the new railway market is looking for and securing this further order fully supports our confidence in Juniper."

Sandy Anderson, Managing Director of Porterbrook Leasing said, "Reading Line commuters using South West Trains will be among the first to benefit from the new trains, which will offer the highest standards of passenger comfort and ensure a quieter and more comfortable ride. The new trains will be the industry leaders for the high quality of first and standard class

interiors, both of which will be fully air conditioned."

GEC ALSTHOM is guaranteeing availability of trains against agreed performance targets and standards. The first of the trains is scheduled for delivery in September 1998 and the fleet will be in full service by April 2000.

Two MoUs boost telecoms research

The Memorandums of Understanding signed between Telekom Malaysia and GEC's Marconi SpA and GEC-Marconi were witnessed by the Malaysian Prime Minister Dr Mahathir and GEC's Managing Director George Simpson at GEC-Marconi Materials Technology, Caswell.

Marconi SpA and Telekom Malaysia will research and develop advanced telecommunications technologies for multimedia applications with particular regard to Malaysia's Multimedia Super Corridor. This includes developing Malaysia Telekom's optical amplifier, which facilitates signal transmission over long distances at very high speeds.

GEC-Marconi and Telekom Malaysia will create a research and development partnership in gallium arsenide microchip technology. This is being increasingly used to facilitate the very high frequency telecommunication transmissions required for applications such as satellites and smart cards.



George Simpson, GEC's Managing Director (left) with the Malaysian Prime Minister, Dr Mahathir.

GEC Board changes

GEC's Board is being restructured as some executive and non-executive Directors will retire at the Annual General Meeting on 5 September.

Lord Prior, GEC's Chairman is retiring at the end of the financial year and the procedure to appoint a new Chairman is progressing.

In addition, three new non-executive Directors joined the Board on 1 July.

For more details turn to page 3.

www.rochesteravionicarchives.co.uk

News in Brief

Appointments

EASAMS

Peter Wharf has been appointed Managing Director of EASAMS. Peter joins after previous employment in project and general management with Syntegra, Chase Manhattan Bank and Hoskyns.

GEC ALSTHOM

Dr Jeremy Wheeler, head of the Insulation Group at GEC ALSTHOM Engineering Research Centre, Stafford has been appointed a Visiting Professor in Design at the Engineering Department of the University of Leicester.

GEC-Marconi

GEC-Marconi has appointed a Year 2000 Programme Director, Richard Wignall, with a supporting Programme Office at Portsmouth. Richard's mission is to ensure that the company is pro-actively managing the Year 2000 problem.

GEC Marine

Dr Richard Gamsey, Research and Development Manager for GEC Marine, has been appointed the new President for the British Nuclear Energy Society. Richard began working in the power industry in 1968, and was appointed to his current post with GEC Marine at the beginning of the year.

GPT

The Government of Azerbaijan has recently made a special award to GPT for its "outstanding contribution to the development of telecommunications" in the country. Baku's new 20,000 line exchange was completed two months ahead of schedule.

GEC Website

Recent updates to the GEC, p.l.c. Website include:

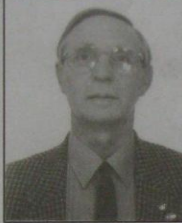
- The GEC Company and Product Directory, listing contact and product details on all companies world-wide
- The GEC Product Safety Management Standard
- New entries to the Website's directory, including: Cannon, GEC Bangladesh, GEC-Marconi Materials and Matra Marconi Space

See "What's New" at <http://www.gec.com> for more details.

Queen's Birthday Honours

Congratulations to the four GEC employees recognised for their achievements this June.

Douglas Hamilton, MBE



J D Hamilton, known as Doug, was awarded the MBE for his services to the Royal Navy Strategic Weapons System programme (RN SWS). A long-serving member of Support Operations at Donibristle, he has been closely associated with this programme since its launch in 1966. Doug has also been a consultant to the Director General Strategic Weapon Systems.

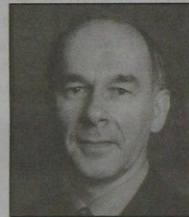
His responsibilities include technical direction and advice on the Trident weapon system installed on the RN's nuclear submarines and liaising with his counterparts in the US programme.

He has worked closely with the RN crews and has earned much respect for his technical authority and personal commitment.

Dr David Grant, CBE

Dr David Grant, GEC's Technical Director was awarded a CBE for his services to the UK's Technology Foresight Programme. He is Chairman of the programme's manufacturing, production and business panel, advising on future technology trends and business opportunities to improve industrial competitiveness.

A recipient of the prestigious Mensforth International Gold Medal, Dr Grant is also Chairman of the Management Committee for the Innovative Manufacturing Initiative. This is a Research Council programme that links university research and industry.



George Matthews, MBE



George Matthews, a former VSEL foreman, received an MBE for his services to the defence industry, as a result of many years of dedication and hard work. George started as an apprentice electrician in 1954 and took voluntary redundancy from Barrow shipyard last year after more than 37 years' service.

A professional rugby league club player for Hull for five years, he also played for Barrow and Blackpool.

Now he is a Director of Barrow Rugby Club, Chairman of the South Cumbria and District Development Association for Rugby League, and a member of the Barrow Sports Advisory Council.

Professor John Roulston, OBE

Professor Roulston, GEC-Marconi Avionics Radar Systems Division (RSD), was awarded an OBE for services to airborne radar. He joined RSD in 1970 and was Chief Engineer Research Group and Chief Systems Engineer prior to becoming Technical Director for GEC-Marconi Avionics Radar Division. The Professor has close links with all the company's radar enterprises and is Supervisory Director for ECR90. He gladly accepted the OBE on behalf of RSD, remarking that "progress comes from teamwork".



GEC-Marconi unit awarded IIP

GEC-Marconi Simulation and Training, Cheadle Heath - part of GEC-Marconi Radar and Defence Systems - achieved the Investor in People (IIP) Standard earlier this year.

The IIP National Standard is based on the simple premise that the success of any organisation depends greatly on the various skills of its employees. Established in 1992 by the Department of Employment, the IIP was designed to make employers take investment in people as seriously as they take investment in plant and equipment. Employers benefit from lower staff turnover and absenteeism and get better value for money from training programmes, whilst employees gain from better training and from understanding how their work affects the company's success.

The achievement was celebrated in June at an official presentation at the Cheadle Heath site, near Stockport. The award was presented by Commodore J Chadwick, RN. Peter Foster, Flagship General Manager; Peter Brown, GMRDS Group Managing Director; and David Patrick, Simulation and Training Divisional Managing Director, also attended the event.

GPT's bells of Beijing

GPT has launched a new joint venture maintenance centre in Beijing to provide support for 130,000 telephone lines during a continuing upgrade of China's telecommunications network.

GPT China Limited and a Chinese Ministry of Railways company, Beijing Bell, are partners in the System X Maintenance Centre, which holds a buffer stock of equipment, allowing for rapid replacement of faulty components whilst repairs are carried out by GPT in the UK.

First class

"The provision of first class maintenance and after-sales services is paramount in developing and maintaining good customer relations," said Peter Warn, Managing Director of GPT's International Customer Division.

Further maintenance centres are already being planned elsewhere in China, where GPT and its partner Siemens AG have installed the world's longest SDH (synchronous digital hierarchy) optical fibre link running 3,900 km from Shanghai on the coast, and west through Chongqing to the commercial centres of Zhengzhou and Xuzhou in Jiangsu Province. The link follows the route of the Chang Jiang (Yangtze) river for much of its length.

The initial contract for the first stage in the SDH link was the largest order ever placed for telecommunications equipment anywhere in the world.

Buying a
NEW Car?

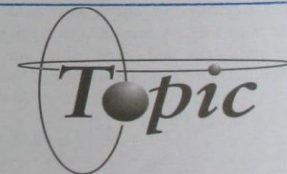
HUGE
DISCOUNTS
OFF
manufacturers'
list prices
OR

N or P reg
at low prices

PLUS
• Part exchange easily arranged
• Full manufacturer's guarantee
• Delivery anywhere in the UK, mainland
• Free service and guarantee work carried out locally to you.
For a quote on the new car you are considering buying - contact:

Richard Proto

National Automobile
Discount Scheme,
88-84 Railway Terrace,
Rugby, Warwickshire
CV21 3EZ.
Tel: Rugby (01788) 542465.



Topic is the GEC newspaper, providing a link between all the company's operations, and keeping employees informed and aware of each others' interests and activities.

Editor: Nicolette Linton
Deputy Editor: Caroline Rees

Topic Office, GEC, 1 Stanhope Gate, London W1A 1EH
Tel: 0171 493 8484 G-Net Access: + 783 389 / 388
Fax: 0171 491 0708
Next issue: October 1997
Copy date: 15 September 1997

News in Brief

GEC-MARCONI

GEC-Marconi Sensors and Thomson-CSF Missile Electronics have agreed to co-operate in development and production of future infrared seekers for homing missiles and related applications.

WOODS

Woods of Colchester have equipped Scottish Widows' new insurance headquarters at Port Hamilton in Edinburgh with fans. The eight storey building, with a further two underground floors, is ventilated throughout.

GPT

GPT, in conjunction with Siemens has broken into the Swedish market by winning two orders totalling £5million for transmission equipment. It will supply a new network for the Swedish military, and a new access network to be developed by Sweden's second largest operator, Tele 2.

GEC ALSTHOM

GEC ALSTHOM's European Gas Turbine subsidiary in France has won an order worth £14 million to supply two 37 MW gas turbines for a power plant at Al Hamriyah, in the United Arab Emirates. The turbines will be in commercial service by September.

High-flyers at Paris

The biennial Paris Air Show proved to be not just an invaluable meeting place for customers and industrial partners, but also a spectacular event showing off the cream of the aerospace industry's aircraft and equipment.



Eurofighter 2000 took part in spectacular daily demonstrations at its Paris Air Show debut.

The Paris Air Show is an important event where companies can co-ordinate their international business. GEC-Marconi's stand displayed a wide range of electronic avionic systems and attracted many important visitors, including the President of

the Board of Trade the Rt Hon Margaret Beckett MP. As one of the top international air shows, Paris permits a large number of high level business meetings to be scheduled, helping to further valuable teamings and secure significant contracts.

This was the first Paris Air Show where Eurofighter (almost one third of the value of which will be supplied by GEC-Marconi) flew daily demonstrations, alongside a host of other commercial and military aircraft from around the world.

Pictured right: the Rt Hon Margaret Beckett MP, President of the Board of Trade, discusses some of the finer points of aviation with Peter Gershon, GEC-Marconi's Managing Director, at the stand at this year's Paris Air Show.



East meets West



The above picture shows a recent meeting in London between George Simpson, GEC's Managing Director (left) and President Ramos of the Philippines. The two met to discuss GEC and GEC-Marconi's business in the Philippines.

Board changes

The Chairman of GEC, Lord Prior, will retire at the end of this financial year. The procedure to appoint a new Chairman is progressing.

Some executive and non-executive Directors are retiring at the Annual General Meeting. Having reached retirement age, Mr Sebastian de Ferranti, Mr John Lippitt and Lord Rees-Mogg will retire from the Board at the conclusion of the AGM on 5th September. The Hon Sara Morrison will also retire from her full-time executive duties, but will remain on the Board to complete outstanding commitments.

David Newlands, Finance Director for the last eight years, retired from the Company on 7th July 1997.

Mr Nigel Stapleton, Chairman of Reed International and Co-Chairman of Reed Elsevier plc and Baroness Lydia Dunn, an executive Director of John Swire and Sons Ltd and Deputy Chairman of HSBC, joined the Board as non-executive Directors on 1st July 1997. Dr Alan Rudge, Deputy Chief Executive, British Telecom plc will also become a non-executive Director on 1st November 1997.

The Managing Director of GEC, Mr George Simpson paid tribute to the retiring Directors and welcomed the appointment of three new non-executives. "The Company is fortunate to have the services of such a distinguished group of non-executive Directors and will benefit greatly from their wide range of experience."

The appointment of a new Chairman to succeed Lord Prior and further restructuring of the Board will be announced in due course.

Motor Insurance

Special Discount Available Highway Direct Limited

Please write or telephone your nearest office. Quote lines at Chatham are open until 7 pm Monday - Thursday. We shall be pleased to help you.

Highway Direct Ltd,
21 Lochrim Place,
Edinburgh,
EH3 9QT
Telephone 0131 229 2121

Highway Direct Ltd,
Hilton House,
Stockport,
Cheshire SK1 3NA
Telephone 0161 476 2157

Highway Direct Ltd,
195/203 New Road,
Chatham,
Kent ME4 4QB
Telephone
01634 847858/848691

Highway Direct Ltd,
St Brandons House,
29 Great George Street,
Bristol,
Avon BS1 5QT
Telephone 0117 929 0081

Highway Motor Policies at Lloyds

Korea's first TGV arrives on time



GEC ALSTHOM recently delivered Korea's first TGV high-speed train to the Korean High Speed Rail Authority. The first train, comprising 18 passenger cars with a power car at either end, will be tested for 20 months on the French national railways' high-speed lines. The second train, currently under construction, will be delivered to Korea in the next few months as laid down in the initial 1994 contract, for a total of 46 trainsets. "The delivery marks the good progress made on the project to link Seoul and Pusan by high-speed rail," said Mr Lee, Managing Director of KHRC, during the presentation ceremony in France. "It also demonstrates the successful collaboration between KHRC and the GEC ALSTHOM-led Korea TGV consortium." Teams based in Europe and Korea worked together to develop the rolling stock catenary and control systems.

GPT honours its finest engineers

ASIC designer David Stoney has been named GPT's 1997 Engineer of the Year and the first-ever GPT Young Engineer of the Year is Mark Read, software development team leader.

David Stoney is a senior consultant engineer working at Beeston and Coventry. He has played a key role in GPT's rise to world leadership in telecoms transmission technology. His award was made to mark his and his section's

outstanding work in developing a semi-custom ASIC chip for telecoms equipment.

On accepting the award, David said, "This is wonderful recognition for my whole team and it is entirely their hard work and

commitment which has secured this award."

Mark Read is a 26-year-old software development team leader based at the company's Beeston site. He was given the Young Engineer award in recognition of his own and his team's work in developing embedded control software for telecoms equipment. The particular value of this work is the reusability of the code that is developed.

Mark, who joined GPT as an engineering apprentice, was delighted to accept the award as an "endorsement of the team's hard work and commitment, as well as a recognition of our greater efficiency."



GPT's Engineer of the Year, Dave Stoney (right) with GPT Young Engineer of the Year, Mark Read.

Firefighters rely on EEV camera twice within hours of delivery

The advantages of using thermal imaging cameras - which allow firefighters to 'see' through dense smoke - were proved twice on the first morning Oxfordshire Fire Service took delivery of this front-line tool.

The Green Watch crew of the Slade Fire Station, Oxford first used their new ARGUS thermal imaging camera to see if cylinders thought to contain highly inflammable acetylene were dangerously hot before they attempted to move them.

The camera showed that the cylinders were cold and safe to handle - it was later known that they contained propane.

Six hours later, Green Watch again used the camera in its more conventional role when called out to a 'persons reported' incident - a house fire. Using the thermal imaging camera and breathing apparatus, the firefighters were able to ensure within four minutes of their arrival that the residents - two children and their parents - were not at home. The smoke was so thick they

were unable to see the flames.

Leading firefighter Guy Dunkley said, "The excellent picture quality provided by the ARGUS enables us to detect not only people and the actual fires, but also to distinguish hot spots to identify different building materials."

Oxfordshire Fire Service now has seven cameras in use, compared to the one previously in operation.



Oxfordshire firefighters with EEV's ARGUS camera.

GEC ALSTHOM makes a stand at Tomorrow's World

GEC ALSTHOM Engineering Systems, Whetstone stage-managed a GEC ALSTHOM UK stand at the BBC Tomorrow's World Live Exhibition in Birmingham. It attracted half of the 38,000 visitors drawn to the five-day event with its centrepiece CONAN, a working robotic manipulator. The stand featured a competition offering Eurostar model train sets and a Eurostar trip to Paris.



GEC-Marconi is cornerstone of LANCER Team

Four of the world's leading defence companies, including GEC-Marconi, have combined to form the LANCER Team to compete for a programme which will develop and build armoured reconnaissance vehicles for the British and US armies.

The team combines the electronics expertise of GEC-Marconi and Texas Instruments with the armoured fighting vehicle capabilities of GKN Defence and United Defense, and it is supported by other world-class specialists.

The programme combines the requirements of the UK's vehicle mounted electronics systems project,

TRACER, with the USA's Future Scout and Cavalry System for an armoured reconnaissance system designed for future battlefields.

Reconnaissance

LANCER will be able to perform forward reconnaissance and scouting missions against opposing forces equipped with

complex sensors and smart munitions.

Significant demands will be placed on the vehicle system's integrated all weather sensor unit and its links to other surveillance platforms and C&I networks. The vehicle will need outstanding strategic and tactical mobility and innovative approaches to system survivability.

Turkey trip for GEC Marine

The combined strength of GEC Marine companies Yarrow Shipbuilders, Scotstoun and VSEL, Barrow-in-Furness was highlighted when a full presentation was made in-country in support of a bid to build the Turkish Navy's new frigate programme.

The TF2000 project will involve the supply of frigates to the Turkish Navy and includes design, construction, technology transfer and a full integrated logistic support package. It has generated interest from several shipyards worldwide, but GEC Marine, the

only UK bidder, is optimistic. Bid Manager John Howie said, "While the project is still at an early stage, it is important to send a strong commercial and technical group to demonstrate our commitment to Turkey and this project in particular."

The team was led by

Robin Shiffner, GEC Marine's UK Sales Director and assisted by Graham Smart, GEC-Marconi's Director of Operations Turkey and Cdr Graham Ramsay, Commander of Training at HMS Dryad, who provided independent support from the Navy.

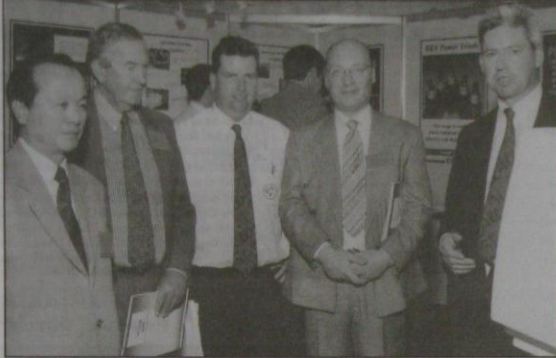
Serena's 'souper' Creda cookery win

Serena Page from Grays Convent School, Essex proved she's ahead of the rest when it comes to cooking by winning the 1996/1997 Creda Challenge Competition. The national competition was launched in October 1996 across all secondary schools in Britain. The aim of the challenge, which was to 'design a soup with a difference', was to encourage pupils to expand their knowledge of food. Six finalists competed for the top prize and Loyd Grossman of Masterchef fame was compère, as well as head of the panel of judges. On winning the competition, Serena was given ten Creda cookers for her school, £1,000-worth of Creda products for her home, an overnight stay at the Alton Towers Hotel and tickets to the theme park. Pictured here with Serena are Tim Nabbs, Creda's Marketing Director (left) and Loyd Grossman.



EEV celebrates 50 years

Customers, distributors and suppliers from as far away as Canada and Australia joined EEV staff and their families in Chelmsford for the company's Golden Jubilee celebrations.



Richard Biggs, Sales Engineer CCD Cameras (right) and Paul McConnell, Sales Manager Industrial Power Tubes (centre) with a group of overseas visitors.

More than 3,000 people attended the three-day event, viewing exhibits of past and present EEV products, touring the factory, visiting on-site training schools and watching presentations by senior managers.

The most popular attractions included a chance to try out EEV's firefighter camera in a smoke-filled tent and an opportunity to use its night vision system to see a model train set running in a darkened room.

"Feedback from all three days was excellent," said Vic

Leverett, EEV's Marketing Director. "Many of our business associates had visited us before but were still surprised and impressed by the diversity of our products and activities."

50 years of growth

EEV (originally called English Electric Valve Company) was launched as part of English Electric in 1947 based on a group of engineers developing radar components from the Marconi Research Laboratories

in Great Baddow. English Electric joined GEC in 1968 and EEV now employs more than 2,000 people on sites in Essex, Lincolnshire and overseas.

The company markets 35 product groups worldwide. Many of these are used at the frontiers of technology, in medical imaging, low x-radiation dentistry, space, satellite and nuclear power applications. Some devices are helping scientists discover the fundamental building blocks of matter itself.

MMS to supply satcom system to Nimrod 2000

Matra Marconi Space (MMS) has been awarded a £15 million contract by Telephonics Corporation of the United States to supply the latest in aircraft satellite communications systems to the Nimrod 2000 Replacement Maritime Patrol Aircraft (RMPA).

This is the first time that MMS has provided an SHF satcom capability to an operational RAF aircraft fleet and the first major purchase of an airborne SHF satellite communications system by the UK's Ministry of Defence. MMS beat off strong competition from the USA, following the award of the RMPA project

to British Aerospace.

The Military Airborne Satellite Communications System, known as MASTER 2000, includes an airborne antenna mounted in the radome on top of the tail of each aircraft and sophisticated communications network management systems both on board the aircraft and in the satellite

ground stations.

MASTER 2000 is compact, lightweight and power-efficient. Its advanced control and user features allow for seamless error-free transfer of data and voice from the aircraft, via satellite, to the users on the ground. It offers five duplex channels for secure speech, high speed and telegraph data.



Steve Aitken, EEV's Engineering Group Leader, shows schoolchildren from Sandon School, Chelmsford the latest digital broadcast equipment for terrestrial TV.

Double success for GPT in Latvia

Latvia's national telecommunications operator, SIA Lattelekom, has placed two orders with GPT: the first for synchronous digital hierarchy (SDH) equipment and the second for payphones, associated management systems and Eurochip smart cards.

For the first order, SIA Lattelekom signed a three-year contract worth up to £5 million, making GPT the sole supplier of SDH for a programme which will establish optical fibre rings in the south and east of the country. Latvia has fibre networks running west - and north to Estonia - but less than 15 per cent of its 700,000 subscribers currently have access to digital services. GPT is already a major supplier to Lattelekom for SDH equipment and is now establishing a technical support centre in Riga, the Latvian capital, to help Lattelekom with its development programme.

The second order - GPT's first payphone success in the Baltic republic - will see the introduction of a new managed network of smart card payphones in Latvia, along with GPT's revolutionary open payphone management system (PMS) and enhanced Eurochip smart card security scheme. GPT's highly flexible open PMS can manage up to 50,000 payphones and will enable Lattelekom to expand the scope of its operations in the near future, for example into managed vending, which collates vending data.

Woods in Chinese metro

Woods of Colchester, in conjunction with GEC Hong Kong Projects, is supplying one of China's largest cities with specialist high temperature fans for a new metro system. Guangzhou, capital city of the southern province Guangdong, has a population of just under six million. Built on both banks of a major river, the new 16-station metro network will span each side. Of 196 fans ordered, 32 are already in place, completing the first of the three-phase installation process. Final delivery is scheduled for December 1997 and construction of the metro is expected to be finished by the end of 1998. Pictured right are Chinese engineers involved in the project, touring Woods' facilities in Colchester with Tony Green, Contract Co-ordinator (second from left).



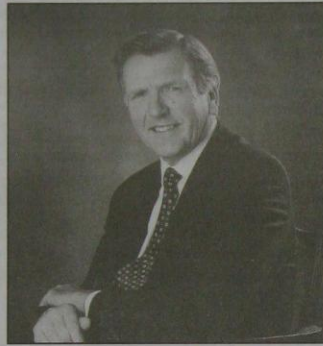
Views for the future

Topic hears from the latest additions to the Head Office management team.

My role as Strategic Planning Director is to plan and, working with my colleagues, facilitate those changes required to ensure that the Company meets the expectations of our shareholders, customers and employees.

Since November 1996, we have been working on a strategic planning review of the Group. The review concludes that whilst the Company has been remarkably successful over the last thirty years as a large diversified set of businesses, in order to compete for the future, we must focus on fewer business sectors with good growth prospects. This new strategy will lead to a major simplification of GEC and will take some three to five years to implement fully. It will be supported by a number of important culture change projects designed to encourage growth in our businesses, promote customer care and to create an environment which maximises the development of the individual.

We are now entering into a period of dynamic change for the Company; our goal is to become world leader in our chosen industries. In order to achieve this, we will need to leverage the strengths of GEC as a whole - this includes not only the financial, technological and market strengths - but also the skills and capabilities of its staff.



Jack Fryer
Strategic Planning Director

Jack Fryer was appointed GEC's Strategic Planning Director in November 1996. He was previously Lucas Varity's Managing Director Transition Operations, having joined the company in 1986 as Group Director Technology. Jack began his career as a nuclear physicist with Rolls-Royce and since then has held a number of senior positions in Rolls-Royce, Rank Xerox and Lucas.

I joined GEC as Personnel Director because I consider this to be the most challenging personnel job in UK industry. My experience at Rover and British Aerospace - and the turnaround in performance within those companies - convinced me that people represent the only lasting form of competitive advantage in any organisation.

Since joining, I have had the opportunity to meet and talk with many employees from all parts of the Company and have been impressed by their quality, their enthusiasm and their commitment to GEC.

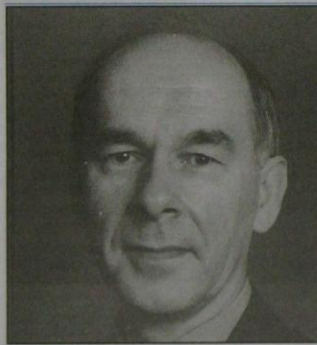
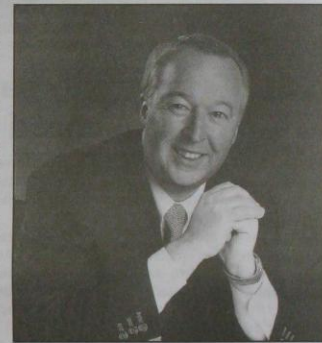
In today's world, companies such as ours can only succeed through the efforts and contribution of all our people. Each of us making our maximum contribution and continually seeking ways to improve our performance.

GEC has considerable strengths but also faces many challenges and, undoubtedly, some difficult decisions will have to be taken. My role will be to ensure that, whatever the future holds for the Company, we realise the enormous potential of our greatest

asset: our people - each and every one of us.

Rob Meakin was appointed GEC's Personnel Director in November 1996. He came from British Aerospace, where he had served as Director of Personnel since 1992, prior to which he had been Personnel Director in Rover. Rob started his career in Personnel with the Ford Motor Company and also held senior positions in British Leyland, Rover and British Aerospace. In particular, Rob worked on the development of the BAe Change Programme and, whilst Personnel Director at Rover, was responsible for the creation of the Rover Learning Business and development of the Rover New Deal.

Rob Meakin
Personnel Director



Dr David Grant
Technical Director

Dr David Grant, CBE was appointed Technical Director of GEC in April 1997, having served as GEC's Director of Technology since 1991. He is Chairman of the Manufacturing, Production and Business Processes Panel of The Office of Science and Technology's Foresight Programme. He is also Chairman of the Management Committee for the Innovative Manufacturing Initiative, which links university research and industry.

My primary objective is to encourage innovation and the development of technologies, skills and engineering processes that efficiently create products valued by our customers. In a world that seeks new and better products, we manage a diverse and rapidly advancing set of technologies that must be engineered into products and systems in reducing time-scales whilst increasing the levels of quality and service provision. I find it an exciting challenge to establish the processes, skills and technologies that will underpin and

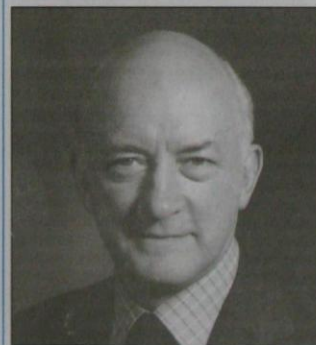
sustain our visions of success. Although I am stimulated by foresight visions of future customer needs and technological possibilities, I also enjoy looking over the fence at our competitors' technologies and processes. We must challenge our visions and aspirations with meticulous and measured analysis of our current practices and technologies, so that they can be matched against the world's best.

As an engineer, I want to encourage all technical staff to engage in continuous professional development, and I want our companies to give greater recognition of that professional development and provide career structures and rewards to motivate staff and acknowledge their improved contribution to company success.

While Topic readers will be well versed in the many and varied activities of GEC companies, there is not much evidence - particularly in overseas markets - that this is a perspective widely

shared in the world at large. It has to be an advantage for any GEC business to be able to point to its connection to the financial and technical clout of the GEC. All too often we make things hard for ourselves by a disinclination to network across the Group. This has been particularly true in GEC-Marconi where I have been Chairman for some time. It is a central part of my brief to promote this networking and to do this I am urging businesses across the Group to share their marketing and sales plans with me so that we can co-ordinate for maximum effect and GEC can get closer to punching its weight.

Sir Geoffrey Pattie
Marketing Director



It is hard to imagine a more dynamic time to be involved at Stanhope Gate with so much change in the air. The commentators and analysts will continue to be full of advice to the Company. Topic readers will have read that sort of advice before, but they can rest assured that their interests, as well as those of our shareholders and customers, will be in sharp focus in the coming months.



GEC ANNUAL RESULTS 1997

Contents

Centrespread: Financial highlights for the Group and overview of a year in the community.
Back page: A month by month review of the major GEC events and news stories which have taken place over the last financial year.

The Chairman's Statement

In announcing the results, GEC's Chairman, Lord Prior, commented:



The Managing Director's Review

George Simpson set out the strategy for the Group:

1997 was another record year for our Company. Turnover exceeded £11 billion and profit before exceptional items came to more than £1 billion, despite the adverse effects of the strength of sterling compared with other major currencies. Arising from management's strategic review of the businesses, exceptional items amounting to £203 million for the restructuring of existing and acquired businesses and £100 million for losses less profits and anticipated losses on the disposal of businesses have been charged against profits. Earnings per share before exceptional items rose to 23.6p (1996 22.9p), and after exceptional items were 14.7p (1996 22.6p). Dividends per share were up 5.1 per cent. to 13.15p.

Smooth handover

This year has seen several changes in our Company. Lord Weinstock retired at the Annual General Meeting in September and was succeeded as Managing Director by George Simpson, as I reported last year. The change-over took place with our Company in good health and financially very strong. This reflects the outstanding contribution of Lord Weinstock over many years. It is a formidable task to succeed him, but George Simpson has already shown his ability to grasp the

complexity of the business and move it forward to greater growth and profitability. I am confident he will prove a worthy successor to Lord Weinstock. This year in our Annual Report we have introduced a statement from our Managing Director, setting out the strategy for the Group.

The Annual General Meeting will mark the retirement of some long-serving Directors of the Company. Lord Rees-Mogg and Sebastian de Ferranti retire as non-executive Directors, having reached the age of retirement.

John Lippitt retires as Overseas Marketing Director, having played a very important role in developing our business throughout the world, but particularly in China and SE Asia. He will continue to be actively involved in our marketing effort.

The Hon Sara Morrison, who has been responsible for our Community Affairs for 23 years, retires from executive duties, but remains a member of the Board. Our many links with voluntary agencies, schools and universities owe much to her energetic guidance.

Malcolm Bates, Deputy Managing Director, retired on 31st March 1997 and David Newlands, Finance Director, having assisted in the smooth handover of responsibilities between Lord Weinstock and George Simpson, left the Board on 7th July 1997.

Both have made great contributions to the success of the Company in recent years.

To all retiring Directors we extend our warmest thanks and wish them well.

We are pleased to announce that Baroness Lydia Dunn and Nigel Stapleton have been appointed as non-executive Directors and will be joined by Dr Alan Rudge in November.

I shall retire from the Board at the end of the financial year on 31st March 1998 and an announcement about my successor will be made in due course.

It has been an enormous privilege to serve the Company as Chairman for thirteen-and-a-half years, and I should like to thank the countless number of employees, customers, suppliers and shareholders whom I have met during this time for their courtesy and support.

Exciting change

George Simpson's statement sets out the strategy for the future success of the Company. Our record order book and strong financial position enable me to look forward to this period of exciting change for our Company with confidence.

The Directors recommend a final dividend of 9.89p, making the total dividend for the year 13.15p per share, an increase of 5.1 per cent.

Since arriving at GEC I have spent much of my time assessing the Company's competitive position and performance potential and have carried out a wide-ranging strategic review.

Strength

This process has confirmed that GEC is indeed a strong company, a valuable national asset with a solid platform for future development. GEC has many leadership positions in the industries in which it operates. Numbered amongst its employees are some of the world's most creative engineers and technologists. The Company has a very strong balance sheet - some would say too strong - and, despite the significant impact of the strengthening pound and a few troublesome contracts, has again in 1996/97 increased its pre-exceptional earnings. GEC today is a large and diverse company whose coherence comes from a common management style based on strong cost control culture and whose future is closely linked to its major joint venture partners.

Despite the strength of this "opening position" and the undoubted solidity of the platform, I believe that GEC has reached a stage in its development when it needs to transform itself through a process of radical change. This belief does not stem from a general

feeling that it is "time for a change", but from two inescapable facts. Firstly, GEC, as an increasingly global company in a rapidly changing environment, must anticipate and respond to external change more quickly. The extent and speed of the change happening in GEC's world can be illustrated by the rapid consolidation of the US defence industry, by the quickly changing profiles of customers in the telecommunications industry and by the far reaching effects of deregulation and privatisation in the energy and transport industries. Secondly, our corporate performance needs to create greater value for our shareholders.

Repositioning

Against this background, I believe it is my job as the new Managing Director of GEC to reposition the Company over the next three to four years in order to create new value opportunities for our shareholders.

This repositioning will move GEC away from a disparate industrial grouping with very heavy joint venture emphasis to a more tightly focused and more GEC managed international group whose activities will centre around market/segment leadership positions where our electronics expertise and systems integration capability can be better exploited. Our financial capacity will

be deployed to strengthen GEC-Marconi's position in the USA and Europe and to build up our industrial electronics businesses worldwide. Discussions with Alcatel Alstom are under way to determine the future of GEC ALSTHOM and we are in discussion with Siemens about the repositioning of GPT.

This repositioning strategy will have three elements - performance improvement, simplification and refocusing, and investment and growth. Actions are already under way in all three areas.

In the field of performance improvement, we have restructured the Board, strengthened top management, reorganised a number of businesses, introduced new management to under-performing business units, introduced effective performance related compensation policies and launched a culture change programme centred around growth, customer focus and people development, while retaining our current strong cost control culture.

In terms of simplification and refocusing, our businesses have been reorganised into five business groups, several disposals have been achieved and others announced and within each business grouping core activities worthy of investment and development have been identified.

Continued on back of pull-out.

Annual Report to

The financial information is extracted from the 1997 statutory Companies and on which the auditors have reported an unqualified

How our businesses performed

Electronic Systems & Defence *



	£ M	
	1997	1996
Turnover	3,567	3,178
Profit	362	305
Order book at year end	8,825	6,292

Power & Transportation Systems *



	£ M	
	1997	1996
Turnover	3,505	3,707
Profit	169	173
Order book at year end	5,374	6,463

Telecommunications *



	£ M	
	1997	1996
Turnover	1,028	863
Profit	149	137
Order book at year end	548	617

* Excluding joint venture associated companies.

*The figures include the GEC share calculated by reference to the GEC interest in the equity of joint venture associated companies.

Industrial Group - United States



	£ M	
	1997	1996
Turnover	1,187	1,166
Profit	116	124
Order book at year end	236	206

Industrial Group *



	£ M	
	1997	1996
Turnover	1,222	1,233
Profit	50	71
Order book at year end	437	496

Key Financial

Turnover	£ M
Profit on ordinary activities before exceptional items	£ M
Profit before taxation	£ M
Earnings per share	pe
Earnings per share before exceptional items	pe
Dividends per share	pe
Outstanding order book	£ M
Net cash in Group	£ M
Share of net cash in joint ventures	£ M
Shareholders' interest	£ M
Net assets per share	pe

KEY

- UK
- France
- Rest of Europe
- The Americas
- Australasia, Asia and Africa

Where our Territory of origin



Where our Territory of origin



Other associated companies +

	£ M	
	1996	1995
Turnover	212	243
Profit	14	20

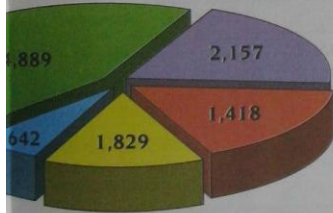
employees 1997

accounts, not yet delivered to the Registrar of
qualified opinion.

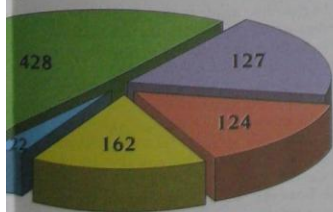
Financials

	1997	1996
Revenue (million)	11,147	10,990
Operating profit (million)	1,010	1,004
Profit before tax (million)	707	981
Operating expenses (million)	14.7	22.6
Research and development (million)	23.6	22.9
Administrative expenses (million)	13.15	12.51
Revenue from operations (million)	15,387	14,185
Operating profit (million)	1,086	1,152
Profit before tax (million)	955	1,465
Profit after tax (million)	2,687	3,112
Dividends (million)	97	113

Revenue turnover came from (£million)



Operating profit came from (£million)



GEC: A year in the community

For several years the Company has given much attention to education, especially maths and the sciences, and to encouraging young people to embark upon industrial careers with the appropriate knowledge, qualifications and enthusiasm to satisfy their individual best interests as well as the needs of modern industry and society. Consequently in 1996/97 we have maintained our commitment to this most important area and have supported many of the initiatives started in earlier years. Perhaps this is evidence that the Company sticks to its view of social and education needs for longer than 12 months.

The list of organisations that received direct support from GEC is not much altered from 1995/96; the Company is a member of Business in the Community, The Environment Council, The Whitehall and Industry

Group and The Employer's Forum on Disability.

Once again GEC was a principal supporter of the Young Engineers for Britain Competition and it helped to stage the Community Service Volunteers (CSV) Volunteer Involvement Awards 1996. Young Enterprise, The Arkwright Scholarships, The Foundation of Science and Technology, Understanding Industry and The

British Association for the Advancement of Science once again all received donations or help towards specific activities during the last 12 months.

The Company also supported British Executive Service Overseas and the Electrical Electronic Industries Benevolent Association (to which GEC is a major contributor because the EEIBA does a lot for GEC retired people), The

Directory of Social Change for its work encouraging the better management of voluntary agencies, and The Media Trust which assists smaller voluntary organisations to better use media help and expertise.

Other donations are too numerous to mention and include a wide range of work which falls within the Company's view of its social responsibilities and society's needs, e.g. The National Aids Trust, Relate, Cruse, Research into Ageing, The Samaritans, The Hearing Research Trust, WWF, Alzheimer's Disease Society, Family Service Units and The Mental After Care Association.

By no means least, GEC is sponsoring and also assisting in many practical ways the "YES" campaign - The Year of Engineering Success 1997.



Students from the ADT College, Putney and The Grey Coat Hospital, London discuss the future of transport at a GEC-sponsored event at the DTI Conference Centre, London.

Energy and the Environment

GEC aims to meet its environmental responsibilities and achieve high environmental standards in the conduct of its businesses.

An effective management structure is essential to accomplish these objectives. At Group level the GEC Energy and Environmental Advisory Unit develops and implements environmental policies for the Group and provides technical and legislative support for GEC businesses. At the operating level, each site has an environmental manager who has attended an extensive training course and is responsible for the

day to day activities and processes carried out on the site.

It is GEC's policy actively to manage the environmental effects of its businesses. The Advisory Unit completed earlier this year its first comprehensive environmental auditing programme which involved over 130 GEC sites in the UK. We plan to re-audit all sites on a 2/3 year cycle. A summary of the results of this and future environmental audits will be shown on the GEC Web site.

Environmental developments continue to present challenges and opportunities. The recent

"producer responsibility" legislation will require manufacturers to meet recovery and recycling targets for certain products at the end of their operational lives. GEC has been actively involved in the consultation process through ICER (Industry Council for Electronic Equipment Recycling). GEC has also been active in consultation with the Department of the Environment over the Packaging Waste Regulations, which came into force in March and will require manufacturers to recover and recycle packaging waste.

One of the main functions

of the Advisory Units is the efficient purchase and utilisation of energy by GEC businesses. The Advisory Unit monitors performance by collecting energy consumption data and conducting regular site energy surveys.

Training continues to be given top priority through the use of the interactive environmental video which was launched last year. Appointed energy and environmental managers attend regular seminars and meetings to enable information and new ideas to be distributed and discussed.

The year's key events in GEC

A review of some of the major orders and events during the 1997 financial year.

APRIL 1996

Matra Marconi Space wins a contract worth around US\$240 million for the ST-1 communications satellite for Singapore and Taiwan.

GEC ALSTHOM's ship-building subsidiary Chantiers de l'Atlantique signs a letter of intent for an order worth US\$500 million to supply two cruise ships with an option for a third. **GPT** wins the Queen's Award for Export Achievement.

MAY

Woods of Colchester wins an order to supply 148 large diameter ventilation fans for Hong Kong's new airport-railway link stations and tunnels.

GPT is awarded a contract worth £50 million to expand the Czech Republic's telecommunications network.

GEC-Marconi Avionics, Rochester wins a multi-million pound contract from McDonnell Douglas for new launch systems for the Harpoon missile.

JUNE

GPT wins a £14 million order to install more than 10,000 GPT payphones in Indonesia.

GEC-Marconi Sensors, Basildon is chosen to supply 100 airborne digital

radios for Scandinavian Airlines System's on-board telephone system.

Three **GEC** staff - one from **VSEL**, Barrow, and two from **GEC-Marconi Radar and Defence Systems**, Stanmore and Leicester, are recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours list.

JULY

GEC-Marconi's **BRIMSTONE** advanced anti-armour weapon is selected for the RAF in a £600 million MoD order.

VSEL, Barrow wins a contract to provide the Royal Navy with two transport ships (LPDs).

Matra Marconi Space is awarded two contracts worth over US\$390 million for the design and development of ASAR and GOMOS space sensors for the European Space Agency's **ENVISAT** mission.

AUGUST

China's largest coal-fired power station, Shajiao 'C' built by a **GEC ALSTHOM**-led consortium is officially opened.

GPT Communication Systems, now part of **Siemens GPT Communication Systems**, Luton wins a multi-million pound order from the Guinness Group to supply an advanced ISDN-based telephone network.

SEPTEMBER

GEC's Managing Director Lord Weinstock steps down after thirty-three years to become the Company's Chairman Emeritus. George Simpson becomes **GEC's** new Managing Director.

GEC ALSTHOM is awarded a contract worth £35 million to supply and install India's largest gas-insulated substation.

Canadian Marconi Company wins an order from American Airlines for around 80 Satcom systems.

OCTOBER

GEC-Marconi Sensors, Basildon wins a contract for some £3.5 million from **GKN Westland Helicopters** for a Multi-Sensor Turret System to equip the RAF's **EH101** helicopters.

GEC ALSTHOM wins a multi-million dollar contract for a Multi-Canister Handling Machine to handle spent nuclear fuel. **NNC** is awarded contracts totalling £500,000 from **Magnox Electric** and **Nuclear Electric** to monitor lifetime performance of components in nuclear power stations.

NOVEMBER

Matra Marconi Space-built TV satellite **Hot Bird**



HMS Vigilant - the third of four Trident submarines - was commissioned into the Royal Navy following successful sea trials.
© British Crown Copyright/MOD

2 is successfully launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida for Eutelsat.

GEC ALSTHOM and **Electricité de France** sign an agreement to finance, construct and operate the first Chinese power station to be entirely funded by foreign investment.

VSEL-built **HMS Vigilant**, Britain's third Trident submarine, is successfully commissioned into the Royal Navy.

DECEMBER

GEC ALSTHOM wins a £90 million order to supply Portuguese National Railways with double-deck trains for Lisbon.

Matra Marconi Space is the first European space company to gain full ISO 9001 and Tickit Certification.

GPT wins an £11.5 million contract for Britain's railway network to become a major telecommunications carrier.

JANUARY 1997

Three **GEC** employees receive MBEs in the New Year Honours list.

GEC ALSTHOM wins a £25 million order to renovate three water pumping stations in Egypt.

GPT, GPS and **GEC ALSTHOM** sign MoUs during a British trade mission to India.

FEBRUARY

GEC-Marconi and **Thomson-CSF** agree to cooperate in the development and production of missile electronics.

NNC, Knutsford to build **UKAEA** **Dounreay** liquid effluent treatment plant in a turnkey contract worth in excess of £3 million.

GEC ALSTHOM-led consortium wins a £130 million contract to supply suburban trains to Sao Paulo in Brazil.

MARCH

VSEL, part of the **GEC Marine** group, is awarded a contract to supply two fast fleet tankers for the Royal Fleet Auxiliary.

Siemens GEC Communication Systems wins its biggest South African order to supply communications for the Government Department of Public Works.

VSEL's ultra-lightweight field howitzer is selected for the US Marine Corps.



GEC companies have won orders worth more than £175 million for the Hong Kong airport and associated Lantau Link. Featuring a traffic control and surveillance system provided by **GEC Hong Kong**, the spectacular **Tsing Ma Bridge** - part of the Link - was opened in May this year. It is the longest suspension bridge in the world to carry both rail and road traffic.

The Managing Director's Review (cont.)

It is clear that the growth element of our repositioning strategy will come from a combination of higher levels of product development expenditure and an acquisition programme aimed at developing a leadership position in our chosen sectors.

The speed and direction of this programme will, of

course, depend upon the value opportunities which arise and what is happening globally in the industries in which we participate.

I expect that this acquisition programme will fully utilise the Company's considerable cash resources. We shall, however, keep the opportunities for returning cash to share-

holders under constant review bearing in mind the possibility of significant disposal proceeds.

Although this ambitious repositioning strategy will challenge our management teams, I believe the underlying strength of the Company and its people will enable us to complete a necessary transformation.

TRAINING DEVELOPMENT

GEC Management College, Dunchurch September Open Courses

Management and Organisation Development

Management through people - £1,225
29 September - 3 October 1997
The GEC Challenge - n/a
5-7 September (fully subscribed)

Marketing and Selling

Structured business development and marketing - £750
3 - 5 September 1997
Developing customer partnerships - £795
29 September - 1 October 1997
Customer management - £240
19 September 1997

Commercial

Procurement and supply chain management - £860
22 - 25 September 1997
Export procedures and documentation - £800
8 - 11 September 1997

Finance

Introduction to financial statements - £600
22 - 23 September 1997
Financial awareness - £1,250
1 - 5 September 1997

Project Management

Project management in a software environment - £1,050
15 - 19 September 1997

Business Process Improvement

Benchmarking executive briefing - £240
11 September 1997
Business excellence model executive briefing - £240
24 September 1997
Internal quality auditors programme - £575
29 - 30 September 1997

Manufacturing and Product Development

Manufacturing improvement programme - £1,150
(i) 25 - 27 September 1997
(ii) 16 - 18 October 1997
Effective manufacturing planning and control - £240
18 September 1997
Concurrent engineering executive briefing - £240
10 September 1997

For more details, contact Ira Jones on G-Net Access: + 784 2025. To book a place on these courses, contact the Sales Office on G-Net 784 2020 (01788 528120) or e-mail Sales@dunchurch.cmail.compuserve.com

Dunchurch announces change to development group

The Human Resource Development Group at the GEC's Management College, Dunchurch has been renamed the Management & Organisation Development (M & OD) Group. It has been restructured to provide more effective services and to maximise the Group's ability to meet customers' needs.

"The change in title better reflects the activities of the group," explained Garry Lucas, the M & OD Group's Business Group Manager. "What the members of the group actually do is to help develop managers and potential managers, and help in the growth of organisations."

Consultancy support

A key change in the activities of the M & OD Group is to provide consultancy support to businesses. Tutors will work with managers to help identify visions and objectives for organisations as well as provide support through programmes aimed at helping achieve those goals. Activities in this area include managing change and team development programmes.

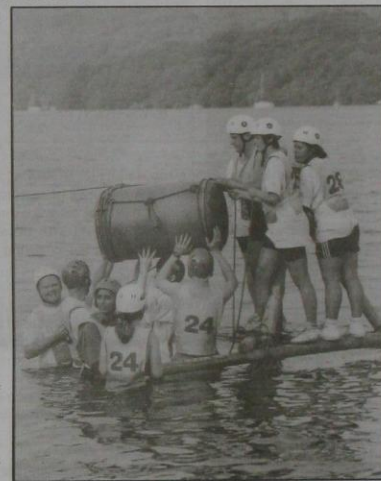
"We do recognise that no organisation can achieve its goals without the help of its people," continued Garry, "and the key role that the M & OD Group can play in this area is through its man-

agement development programmes."

M & OD courses include a range of 'open' programmes at Dunchurch, including management through people, developing leadership skills, and influencing and negotiating skills. There is also a wide range of 'bespoke' courses designed to meet the specific needs of an organisation. These include variations of the open programmes, graduate development programmes or programmes leading to post-graduate awards.

The M & OD Group also offers a wide range of teamworking and team-building programmes designed to encourage newly formed, multi-functional or cross-departmental teams to become more effective and reach peak performance quickly.

The Group will continue to deliver its outdoor management development programmes - including The GEC Challenge - at Dunchurch and other outdoor centres.



The Group will still run its popular outdoor management training events including The GEC Challenge (above) and the Ropes Course (right) which test team-building participants' physical and mental prowess to the limit.



Woods Academy judged 'excellent'

Woods of Colchester was awarded a certificate of excellence by the heating and ventilation industry at its annual awards ceremony. One of four finalists in the Training Initiative of the Year category, the company was recognised for its popular 'Woods Academy' training programme.

The 'Woods Academy' is a series of specialist lectures run over the last year as part of the Woods Lifetime Learning programme.

The talks, given by in-house experts, aim to give all employees the opportunity to find out more about the company and gain a greater awareness of the

wide range of functions and activities within it.

All employees are invited to attend the lectures, which have proved so popular that they are now held each month with an average attendance of over 120.

The certificate of excellence was received on be-

half of the company by its Director of Personnel and Management Services, Steven Knowles, who recognised that "the certificate is reward for all the employees who have taken part in the Academy and given up their free time to attend the lectures, making the scheme the success it

is today." This is the second time that Woods has been a finalist in the industry's Training Initiative of the Year category. In 1995, the company beat three other finalists to win the award for its NVO training scheme in Woods' Customer Services Department.

TRAINING DEVELOPMENT

Nelson Gold Medal winners collect awards

This year's four winners were presented with their medals by Lord Prior, GEC's Chairman at a recent ceremony, which was also attended by George Simpson, GEC's Managing Director.

The award was founded by the late Lord Nelson of Stafford (GEC's Chairman from 1968 to 1983) and recognises exceptional contribution from GEC employees working in a scientific or engineering capacity. Winners will have pro-

duced work with tangible advantages over established technology which has been incorporated into products with identifiable commercial success. Nominations are accepted each year from GEC businesses world-wide and

shortlisted candidates are assessed by a judging panel of academics and former technical directors from the GEC and GEC ALSTHOM Groups. In all, 61 medals have been presented in the 13 years of the scheme.



Pictured above (from left to right) are GEC's Chairman and Managing Director with the four Nelson Gold Medal winners: Denis Chatrejou, GEC ALSTHOM, Belfort; Leslie Falkingham, GEC ALSTHOM T & D Vacuum Equipment, Rugby; Lord Prior, GEC's Chairman; George Simpson, GEC's Managing Director; Dr Clive Coleman, GEC-Marconi, Stanmore; Dr Peter Osborne, GEC-Plessey Semiconductors.

EASAMS

EASAMS has a long-standing reputation for providing high quality, independent consultancy services to a wide range of customers. The company offers solutions based on the right blend of software engineering, systems integration and analytical skills, combined with broad-ranging domain expertise. We currently have vacancies in the following areas:

Consultancy Division

- Mathematical modellers/analysts - knowledge of underwater acoustics or aerodynamics/missile modelling an advantage. Vacancies at Frimley, Surrey and Weymouth, Dorset.
- Experienced software engineers with knowledge of air traffic control systems. Software experience required in C or C++. Vacancies at Frimley, Surrey.
- Naval combat systems engineers with knowledge of Type 42 or Type 23 frigate combat systems. Vacancies at Frimley, Surrey.

If you are interested in any of the above positions, please send your CV to Paula Banham, EASAMS Consultancy Division, Lyon Way, Frimley Road, Camberley, Surrey GU16 5EX.

Manufacturing Division

Due to expansion, we now have vacancies for a number of application consultants within our Manufacturing Systems Division. We are interested in experienced professionals with a minimum of three years' experience as a user or systems provider in a manufacturing and/or commercial environment.

Reporting to the Unit Manager, you will be joining a successful team of professionals working with leading edge ERP products. Main responsibilities will be to provide pre-sales support, consultancy, implementation assistance and an application support service to our customers.

These roles will involve extensive UK travel and applicants will require self-motivation, mobility and a flexible attitude. In return, we offer a competitive salary and company car where appropriate.

If you wish to apply, please send your full CV to Debbie Rogers, Personnel Manager, EASAMS Ltd, The Hollies, Newport Road, Stafford ST16 1BY.

Frimley and Weymouth

Avery Berkel

Industrial Service Manager - competitive salary + bonus + car

Avery Berkel is a world-wide leader in the manufacture, sale and service of weighing and food processing equipment. Our name is synonymous with the highest standards of professionalism and we are continually developing our products to meet the growing demands of our customers. Due to internal reorganisation, we now require an ambitious and dedicated professional to join the industrial services division based at our branch in Fareham.

In this highly customer-orientated role, your brief will be to provide a comprehensive account management service and to obtain and secure new contracts. This challenging role will involve developing existing contracts, actively promoting our services, preparing quotations and budgets, and ensuring optimum efficiency of the branch. Managing a team of technicians, you will be responsible for a variety of personnel issues, including assessment of training needs, appraisals, quality control, and health and safety.

To be successful, you must have an established background in industry and ideally be educated to HNC level in mechanical or electrical engineering. Commercially aware with a proven sales track record, you will possess excellent people management and communication skills. A flexible approach and a knowledge of health and safety regulations are essential.

In return for your skills and commitment, we are offering an attractive salary, a range of benefits, and a stimulating working environment.

If you are innovative and a good team leader, please send your CV to Gail Wilkins, Personnel Department, Avery Berkel, Sertec House, West Bromwich Road, Tame Bridge, Walsall WS5 4BD.

Fareham

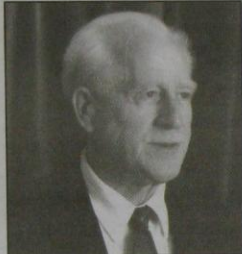
GEC Overseas Club

News from around the Centres

Australia

Dr Vernon Porritt, a long standing and prominent member of the Perth branch of GEC's Australian Centre recently had his first academic work published.

One of the oddities of recent history was the hasty secession of Sarawak from Britain in 1946 and the no less hasty incorporation of Sarawak as a state within the Federation of Malaysia. Porritt's book, titled "British Colonial Rule in Sarawak, 1946-1963", published in March by the Oxford University Press in Kuala Lumpur and available world-wide, covers this rapid period of change in Sarawak's history. Sarawak, on the island of Borneo, where Porritt spent part of his career, is now embarking on one of the major power engineering projects of our time - the Bakun Dam. The Dam will supply power from Sarawak on the island of Borneo to the peninsula of Malaysia via possibly the longest submarine power cables in the world. This book should help to explain some of the formative forces behind the present state of the country.



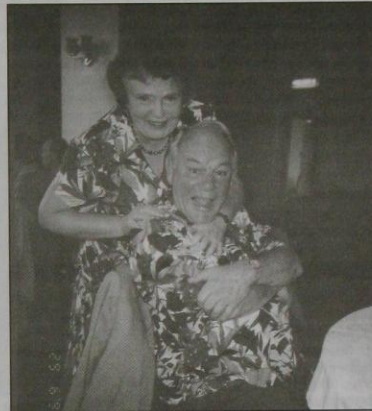
Dr Vernon Porritt.

Canada

The Canadian Centre's 1997 AGM and annual dinner will take place at the Sheraton Centre Hotel, Toronto on Thursday 25th September. Club Chairman Chris Candler is expected to be one of the honoured guests. For more details please contact Graham Herriman or Lynne Coote.

Coventry

The Coventry Centre recently enjoyed another superb summer lunch at the Grange Club, Coventry. The traditional image of blazers and white gloves was shattered by Brian and Pat Cooper, pictured right, sporting festive summer-wear purchased on their recent trip to Australia. The next Coventry Centre lunch will be at the same venue on Sunday 7th December. Contact Alan Nixon for details.



The Coopers find the Club's new dress code somewhat tame.

FOR YOUR DIARY...

8 August
Open-air concert with fireworks
Broadlands
Portsmouth Centre

13 August
Dinner dance
Australian Centre
Sydney

25 September
AGM and dinner
Canadian Centre
Toronto

29 September
Inter-Centre golf
Heyrose
Lancashire

2 October
Council meeting
Kemble House, London

24 October
Rugby Centre dinner
Ashton Lodge
Chelmsford Centre dinner
Chelmsford
London Centre lunch
The Naval Club, London

30 October
GEC annual dinner
The Brewery
London

USA

Ernest Hickin is planning to hold a joint Overseas Club and IEE dinner in the New England area. Will interested parties please contact him at Myton Associates Inc, 21 Sawmill Brook Road, Winchester MA 01890 1056. Tel (617) 721 0564.

Portsmouth, UK

The Centre held its AGM in April, followed by a presentation on a member's recent visit to India. In May about 35 members visited Exbury Gardens and in June an evening Race Meeting was attended at Goodwood. Golfing friendlies have been held at Fleetlands and Southwick and the Centre's annual barbecue was hosted by Conrad Davies on Hayling Island. Forthcoming events include the local Golf Championship and an open air concert with fireworks at Broadlands.

Club dinner 1997

The 1997 Annual dinner of the Club will be held at The Brewery, Chiswell Street, London on Thursday 30th October. Lord Prior, the Club President will be present, alongside a distinguished principal guest. Detailed arrangements will be available at the end of July.

Club diary 1998

The Club insert for the 1998 diary is currently being prepared and the Secretary would be grateful to receive advice on changes of address and telephone numbers for inclusion. The diary will be printed in early August.

Obituaries

ANDREW TURNBULL

Long-standing member and supporter of the GEC Overseas Club, Andrew Turnbull passed away in May aged 57. His was a distinguished career as Director of many leading Australian companies, including Brambles Industries, GEC Group (later GEC ALSTHOM Australia).

DICK CLEMO

The Committee members of the Canadian Centre were saddened to hear of the recent death of Dick Clemo. Dick worked for BTH and English Electric in Rugby (UK) before moving to Canada where he worked as a consultant in power generation.

South Africa

South Africa's reformed Centre held its first formal AGM at the Wanderers Club, Johannesburg on Wednesday 16th April. Keith Maxted was re-appointed as Chairman with Jake Crompton Secretary and Ron Dyer Treasurer. There are currently regional representatives in Durban and Cape Town and it is planned to appoint one in Port Elizabeth. Those interested in finding out more or becoming involved should contact Jake Crompton. The annual dinner will be held at the Inanda Club, Johannesburg on Tuesday 4th November.

Rugby, UK

The first of what is hoped will be a series of rambles combined with the Coventry Centre was held on Sunday 8th June starting from and finishing at the Golden Lion at Easenhall. Members and their families enjoyed the summer sunshine before taking advantage of lunch and traditional refreshments. Fifty-one members and partners attended the Centre's successful annual Ladies' Night at Ashlawn House in June.



CLUB SECRETARY

Council: David Twigger, GEC, 1 Stanhope Gate, London, W1A 1EH
Tel: 01203 565588

CENTRE SECRETARIES

Chelmsford: Chris Christelow, EEV, Chelmsford, CM1 2DU
Tel: 01245 493493

Coventry: Alan Nixon, GPT, New Century Park, Coventry, CV3 1JH
Tel: 01203 563784

Lincoln: Tim Dunn, GEC Plessey Semiconductors, Carlisle Road, Lincoln, LN1 1SG
Tel: 01522 500500

London: John Forster, 20, The Avenue, Flitwick, Bedford, MK45 1BP
Tel: 01525 713891

Manchester: Chris Baines, CECELEC plc, Units 10-11, Westinghouse Road, Trafford Park, Manchester, M17 1WW
Tel: 0161 875 2978

Portsmouth: Roger Peplow, Matra Marconi Space UK, Anchorage Road, Portsmouth, PO3 5PU
Tel: 01705 704596

Rugby: Phil Moore, CECELEC Projects, Boughton Road, Rugby, CV21 1BU
Tel: 01788 563488

Stafford: Penny Lewis, GEC ALSTHOM Turbine Generators, Lichfield Road, Stafford, ST17 4LN
Tel: 01785 274005

Australia: John Rodgers, GEC Lighting Wholesale, Cnr Percy & Roonea Sts, Auburn, NSW 2144
Tel: 61 296499451

Canada: Graham Herriman, GEC ALSTHOM Int Canada, Mississauga
Tel: 905 6248300

UK rep: Henk Ailing-Mees, Little Baddow, Chelmsford, Essex, CM3 4RS
Tel: 01245 222309

Hong Kong: Robert McPhee, GEC Hong Kong
Tel: 852 2919 8282

South Africa: Jake Crompton, GEC ALSTHOM Int, Bivonia Gate North, 381 Bivonia Boulevard, South Africa
Tel: 27 11 847 3108

CLASSIFIED COLLECTION

Holidays

ALGARVE, Portugal. Luxury detached villa comprising two s/c apartments each sleeping two/six. Own large swimming and paddling pools, BBQ areas, full-sized snooker table in games room. Phone Mrs Smith on 01268 756628.

ANDALUCIA. Various Spanish houses in two villages, mid distance Malaga-Nerja for short or long term let. 12 miles inland. 1,000 ft elevation. Ideal for walking, painting, touring holidays. Price according to time of year. Tel: 01772 421123.

ARGVLL. With excellent views of Loch Long. Four superbly equipped self-catering three-bedroomed cottages set in own ground on farm. Each sleeps six/seven. Ideal for walking, fishing, mountain biking etc. Electricity incl. Tel: 0136 9810 246.

AVRSHIRE - Culzean Bay. Six-berth luxury caravan to let. West Coast of Scotland, between Turnberry and Troon. Relaxing holiday, sandy beach. Local attractions include Culzean Castle and 'Burns Country'. Tel: 01292 500444.

BRITTANY and West Coast France. Eight-berth mobile homes for hire on Haven sites. Superb location, near lovely beaches. Few remaining dates available. Reasonable prices. Also six-berth caravan for hire at Rockley Park, Poole. Tel: 01708 788049.

CAISTER-ON-SEA, Norfolk. Six-berth caravan. Family site. No pets or teenage parties. From £80 - £140 pw. Phone Ron Hall on 01245 355068.

CARNLOUGH, County Antrim, Northern Ireland. Luxury bungalow on beautiful coast road in the glens. Excellent walking, fishing, sightseeing and touring. Two bedrooms, double sofabed in lounge. Sleeps three/six. Northern Ireland Tourist Board certificated. Tel: 01266 653596.

CLACTON. Six-berth caravan. Shower, fridge, colour TV, clubhouse, indoor heated swimming pool, outdoor pool. All amenities. Near beach and pier. Tel: 01245 259770.

CORNWALL. St Ives. Small private hotel overlooking Porthminster beach. En-suite, family and single rooms available. Licensed bar. Five minutes from town centre, bus and railway stations. Open mainly July and August. Tel: 01736 795595 (eves).

DEVON/CORNWALL borders. Bed and scrumptious break-

fast. English Tourist Board highly commended. For brochure, tel/fax: 01409 241492.

DEVON CLIFFS, Exmouth. New three-bedroom eight-berth caravan on Haven site. Suitable for all. Free admission to clubs/swimming pools and free gas/electricity. Privately owned/maintained. Prices well below camp tariffs. Available dates September 1997. Tel: 01793 731485.

DEVON CLIFFS, Exmouth. One of Haven's best holiday parks. Three-bedroom nine-berth caravans with microwave and radio. Five swimming pools, first class entertainment. At least 35% off Haven's list prices. Late availability possible. Tel: 01935 412333.

DEVON COTTAGE. Sleeps seven. Superb views. Half mile from village. English Tourist Board 4 Key highly commended. For brochure, tel/fax: 01409 241492.

FLORIDA. Privately owned luxury villa sleeps up to eight. Three bedrooms, two bathrooms. Private screened and heated pool, cable TV, a/c and fitted kitchen. 15 minutes from major attractions and Disneyworld. Advice on travel arrangements available. Tel: 0191 384 7786.

FLORIDA. Privately owned luxury villa. Four double bedrooms, two bathrooms, family room and large lounge. Fully fitted kitchen with dishwasher etc. AC. Large screened private solar heated pool. Patio with BBQ. Garage with washer/drier. For more details, tel: 01772 257312.

FRANCE, La Palmyre, Nr Royan. Modern villa comfortably accommodates six. Two bedrooms, good-size living room with kitchenette. Swimming pool (in season) and tennis courts in a village style complex. Good walking and cycling area. Sandy beaches, shopping precinct, large zoo and restaurants approx 2.5 miles. Ideal for visiting Cognac, Bordeaux, Futurscope. Tel: 01276 28792 (a/phone).

FRANCE, St Gilles Croix de Vie, Vendee. First floor apartment overlooking gardens. Sleeps seven. Across the road from the beach. Free electricity and hot water. Discount available on some ferry crossings. Tel: 01565 653309.

FRENCH COTTAGE for rent in three acres with lake and waterfall, landscaped grounds with woodland and orchard. Fresh farm produce. Sleeps six. Log fire, modern kitchen and bathroom. 1.5 hours from Cherbourg. Total tranquillity with all the amenities. For

brochure, tel: 01543 424852.

GASSIN/ST TROPEZ. Well-equipped mobile home. Sleeps four/six. Shower, WC, private patio. Beautiful wooded site with large pool, baby pool, shop, restaurant and tennis court. From £140 pw. Tel: 01962 853504.

GOWER, Llangennith, South Wales. Tastefully converted barn. Two bedrooms. Sleeps four/six. Spectacular views of Rhossili and Broughton Bays. Available summer and winter. Tel: 01792 386249.

ISLES OF SCILLY. Well-furnished flat to let for two/four in Hugh Town, St Mary's. Sea view, near beach, TV and linen provided. £110-200 per week. Call 01244 380986 (eves).

LAKELAND FLORIDA. Luxury air-conditioned three-bedroom villa with own heated swimming pool overlooking golf course. Country club facilities and equestrian Disney and Gulf Coast. £375 weekly. Tel: 0181 947 0080.

MALTA. Privately owned holiday flat in quiet coastal town of B'Bugia. Situated by the sea with beach just minutes away offering excellent swimming. Sleeps five: two twin and one single. Cost for flat per week: £130 (summer), £100 (winter). Tel: 0141 616 0513.

MENORCA. Beautifully equipped villa and apartment, with pools and amazing locations. For brochure tel/fax: 01409 241492.

MENORCA. Country house bed and breakfast in beautiful setting with pool. For a peaceful and tranquil holiday tel/fax: 01409 241492.

MENORCA. Detached villa with swimming pool. Sleeps max. six. Three bedrooms, kitchen, lounge/diner, two bathrooms, sun terraces and gardens. Close to beaches/coves. Available from 13 October. Also taking bookings for summer 1998. For brochure, tel/fax: 01634 867183.

NORTH WEST SCOTLAND. Croft house on the edge of Loch Ewe, Aultbea, Wester Ross. Sleeps six +. Close to Inverewe Gardens and beautiful highland scenery. Ideal for touring, walking etc. £110 pw. Tel: 01376 326250.

ORLANDO. Two bedroom, two bathroom air villa, overlooking 18th fairway Meadows Woods Golf Club. Free golf and use of pool. From £200 p.w. Tel: 01745 833426.

PALMA, Mallorca. Apartment in superb location near sea-front, cathedral, restaurants and shops. Sleeps four. Available now for rent. Tel: 01442 384440 (eves).

PROVENCE. 30 miles north of St Tropez. New detached Provencal-style secluded villa. Own swimming pool. Four double bedrooms and fifth with cot. Bathroom with shower, shower room and two WCs. Fully fitted kitchen. Linen provided. Immaculate condition. Locally managed. For details, tel/fax: 01923 776126 or tel: (33) 4 94 04 45 69 and fax: (33) 4 94 04 40 23.

SA RIERA. Beautiful Costa Brava fishing village near Begur. Large apartment close to beach. Sleeps seven. Rooftop BBQ. Only 40 miles from French border or Gerona airport. Just right for motoring holidays. From only £80 pw. Details from 01935 412333.

SCOTLAND. Comfortable house in rural central Scotland with easy access to Edinburgh, Glasgow and the Trossachs.

Sleeps six in two twins and a double. £350 per week incl. Tel: 09734 19003/01506 653222.

SOLWAY COAST - near Lake District. Well-equipped comfortable cottage in quiet village at western end of Hadrian's Wall. Sleeps four. Good walking, fishing, cycling, windsurfing, birdwatching etc. Good friendly pub 100 yds. From £125 pw. Contact Cooper on: 01697 351868.

TORQUAY. Treat yourself to a well-earned break on the English Riviera. We are a family run hotel situated in our own grounds with private car parking. Features include a licensed restaurant and bar with games room. Short walk to harbour, shops and entertainment. Discounts available to all GEC employees. Tel: 01803 292150.

TURKEY, Calis Beach Fethiye. Stay at the Aygul Hotel for just £49 pp pw B&B or the Tuna Hotel overlooking beach with swimming pool and bar for £55 pp B&B. Tel: 01935 412333.

WESTERN FRANCE, Ile d' Oleron. Luxury 30ft mobile home, sleeps six. Pleasant site, all facilities including horse riding, English couriers on site. Near beaches, supermarket and walled town (Le Chateau). Easy journey from St Malo. From £100 per week. Details: 01243 542493.

WEYMOUTH. Eight-berth caravan on Haven site, Littlesea. Full use of Haven facilities including pool, clubs, sports facilities, Tiger Club. Still some September and October bookings. Also taking bookings for 1998. Tel: 01329 287629 or 0831 226734.

WYE VALLEY. Large fully furnished farmhouse, sleeps six/eight, linen provided.

Spectacular views across 500 acre farm. Three miles Tintern Abbey. Easy access M4/M5. Quiet and unspoilt. Large enclosed gardens. Pets welcome. Tel: 01600 860951/712469 or fax: 01600 712158.

YORKSHIRE DALES, Tosside, near Settle. B & B in charming barn conversion, peaceful and picturesque. En-suite facilities. Close to the Three Peaks, Settle to Carlisle scenic railway, Forest of Bowland, Dales etc. £18 pp per night. Open all year. Tel: 01729 840482.

Wanted

MODEL RAILWAY. Small OO/HO steam outline model railway. Tel: 01702 294645.

OLD CARPENTERS' TOOLS. Especially wooden and metal planes by Norris, Spiers, Mathieson, Preston and Stanley. Anything interesting. Tel: 01492 877380.

AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS books from WW2 wanted. Private collector. Also other memorabilia: helmets, papers etc. Call James on: 0181 420 3169 (work), 01923 491524 (h o m e) o r e - m a i l james.lulo@gcem.com

TV PROGRAMMES from the 50s to the 70s, on film stock (8mm cine or 16 mm) or recorded on obsolete videotape formats (pre-VHS or BETA). Call Vaughan on 0181 861 5553.

MECHANICAL calculators and unusual slide rules wanted. Phone Alan on 01788 817309 (eves) or 01788 531946 (day).

WORKSHOP MACHINES. Woodturner wants to buy lathes incl. tools, table/band saws, thicknesser, planer, router and extraction system. Also need exotic foreign or British fruit wood. Will cut/remove/collect FOC if local. Call Mike on 01932 824193 or G-Net: Access+ 950 4193.

Send your classified advertisement written clearly in block capitals (maximum 40 words) to: The Topic Office, The General Electric Company, p.l.c., 1 Stanhope Gate, London W1A 1EH by **September 15 1997** giving your name, address, telephone number and, where appropriate, your GEC site. Next issue - October 1997.

Only one insertion per ad is allowed. Insertion is not guaranteed but every effort will be made to include your advertisement as soon as possible. GEC employees, their families and people who have retired from the Company may advertise free of charge. For others the cost is 50p per word. Please make cheques payable to: The General Electric Company, p.l.c.

Topic takes no responsibility for any misrepresentations or inaccuracies in classified advertisements or for any breaches of obligations by classified advisers. Readers are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering into obligations.

For Sale

DIGITAL MULTIMETER. Thurlby Thandar 1905a (as seen in the RS catalogue). Ex calibrated model. £80 o.n.o. Call Alan Pullin 0161 483 3635 eves or 0151 228 0988 ext 261.

MARCONI CR 100 series short wave receiver in good working order. £120 or best offer. Tel: 01582 458943 eves.

LUXURY CARAVAN. Two-berth Deanline Golden Crown 132, 1984. Full spec and many extras. Excellent condition. One non-smoking owner since new. £1,850 o.n.o. Tel: 01245 357379.

MODEL RAILWAY LAYOUT. 24 x 8 "N" gauge exhibition layout 'Reconborough'. Call John on 01252 546362 (eve) or e-mail on john.henwood@gcem.com

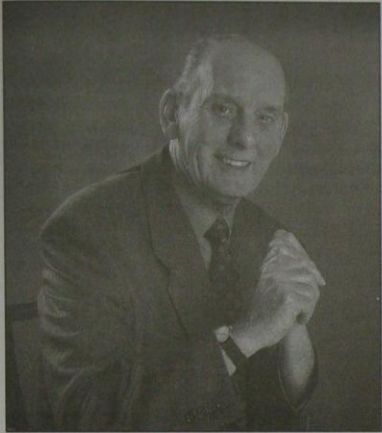
Miscellaneous

AU PAIR wanted for family in Chelmsford. To start after 1997 summer holidays staying for up to one year. Full board plus £35 pw. Recommendations gratefully received. Call Dave on 01245 353221 ext 3925.

AU PAIR position wanted for one to two months from 1 July. 20-year old French girl would like to improve her English in return for room and board. No payment necessary. Call Anne on (33) 4 79 61 66 90.

INTRUDER alarm systems. Professional quality alarm products at trade prices, free alarm design service and advice. Access/Visa accepted. Write to Mail Order Department, Wholesale Alarm Supplies, 5 Springfield Street, Preston, PR1 7ES or call 01772 885848.

Bob's checking out



GEC's Chief Cashier, Bob Wilderspin, retired early in July after 42 years' service with the Company. Bob joined GEC when he was 20 years old, after two years at Midland Bank and serving two years' National Service with the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, where he attained the rank of Sergeant. Bob has watched GEC grow and change over the years - and hopefully also his pay-slip - a meagre £6 a week when he first joined! He plans to spend time relaxing and enjoying his family and grandchildren.

GEC ALSTHOM plays a part at Shakespeare's Globe

Shakespeare's recently rebuilt Globe Theatre in Southwark - an exact replica of the original destroyed in the Great Fire of London - relies on GEC ALSTHOM's electrical equipment to provide it with heat and light.

The interior of the new Globe recreates the atmosphere of the 16th century, but in direct contrast is its

highly modern electrical equipment designed by GEC ALSTHOM Low Voltage Equipment Ltd.



The inside of the Globe, as it is today. (Photograph: Richard Kalina)

The wooden structure and furnishings of the theatre mean that a first class electrical protection system is vital to minimise the risk of fire in the event of a circuit fault.

The main low voltage switchboard, located in the theatre's basement incorporates two 800A M-PACT incoming air circuit-breakers, a

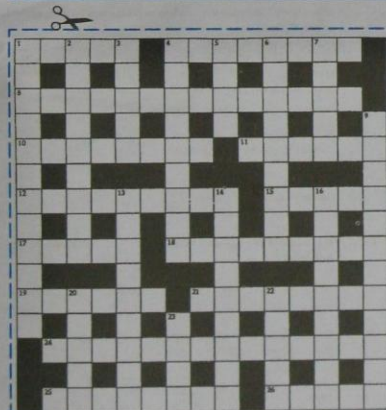
bus section and several fuse-switch feeders of various ratings.

The breakers are fitted with electronic protective relays to guard the system from electrical faults, and via a simple touch-keypad a range of settings can be selected and observed on a digital readout.



Going underground - the switchgear.

July Crossword



The prize for the July crossword is a Creda Reversair Tumble Dryer.

ACROSS

1. It turns colour when ready to drop (5)
4. Daring novel written in the fifties by one-time farmer's help (14-4)
8. Ancient mariner: an encouragement to Sinbad for a time (3,3,2,3,3)
10. Daunted by Ms Lyn, perhaps, in outstanding case (8)
11. "Goddess of Wisdom": showing 1st April to the latter part of June (6)
12. Ford to receive a medal? (3,6)
15. Finish after the morning? Correct (5)
17. Smithy wants a couple of gear-levers for the van (5)
18. Leading thespian ranted at Scotsman - one playing King Lear? (9)
19. Religious leaders want couple to make good (6)
21. Painless treatment for dogs (8)
24. Predicament for a surgeon, possibly, seen in the theatre (7,7)
25. HH - extremely tough on certain writers? (4,4)
26. Infomers? They smell (5)

DOWN

1. Unusually hot, coarse food, but one should get through it (12)
2. A special day for the revolutionary landlord? (3-6)
3. "The Huntress": Canadian actress given the part (5)
4. Was vigilant, like kindly king on Boxing day (6,3)
5. Cuckoo found by teachers on 5th August (4)
6. Barker: an eminent Scandinavian? (5,4)
7. Old magistrate about to appear with first wife (5)
9. Improve or repair one's garden paths (4,4,4)
13. Try on a short garment during science lesson (9)
14. Rushed to make an impression (and 'e did, from what we hear) (9)
16. One's personal cover? (9)
20. European embraces love in a southern resort (5)
22. Type of material: Granny longs for a piece (5)
23. Topless girl gives a song (4)

May's winner

Congratulations to Dore Found, from Marconi Instruments in Stevenage, the lucky winner of the Xpelair Taurus desk fan.

May solutions

- ACROSS**
 7. Wedlock 8. Jupiter 10. Boottle 11. Egyptian 12. Bill
 13. Masonette 14. Malediction 19. Journeyman 22. Dais
 23. Thespian 24. Drivel 25. Freight 26. Esteems
- DOWN**
 1. Segovia 2. Flotilla 3. Scream 4. Ruby Port 5. Tiptoe
 6. Penalty 9. Bears in mind 15. Eyesight 16. Old-timer
 17. Nowhere 18. Dilemma 20. Ruskin 21. Nudist

ENTRY FORM

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Company.....

Closing Date: September 15th 1997

Send your completed crossword with this entry form to Topic, GEC plc, 1 Stanhope Gate, London W1A 1EH. Please mark your envelope "July Crossword".

Chelsea Flower Show's Marconi Rose



More than 300 blooms of a rose named after Guglielmo Marconi were launched at this year's Chelsea Flower Show. Princess Elettra Marconi (above), Marconi's daughter poses with a basket of the flowers beside a model of her namesake yacht SY Elettra, which Marconi equipped with wireless apparatus as a floating laboratory. The roses were presented to her as part of the centenary celebrations for Marconi's first transmission of radio signals. The roses were grown by R Harkness and Company in Hertfordshire.

Marathon run for breath

Peter Thorburn, Technical Lecturer for Siemens GEC Communication Systems, ran his fourth London Marathon this year, raising £150 for the National Asthma Campaign.

His personal best finishing time of less than 3.5 hours was a result of many months' hard training, running more than 50 miles a week. Peter started running when he was 50 years old and has always raced for charities. He recommends would-be runners to join local running clubs, where they can "team up with kindred spirits".

Holiday Inn Competition Winner

We thought the best entry for the break at Holiday Inn was from GPT's Jenny Hand - well done Jenny - enjoy and relax!

*Timescales, deadlines, every day
 Always work - no rest or play,
 Got GPT 'highlights' (going grey!)
 Holiday Inn? Make my day!*

RIGHT TO REPLY

What do you really think of Topic?



Topic's first issue was published in September 1956.

GEC's newspaper, *Topic*, has been bringing employees GEC news and views for more than 40 years. Both the Company and the newspaper have undergone many changes in that time, but *Topic* has always aimed to keep you informed, up to date and, hopefully, entertained. To help us continue to meet this aim and find the right balance, we need your feedback. *Topic* is, after all, *your* newspaper, so please spare a few minutes to fill in this questionnaire. Where you can, feel free to give the reasons for each of your answers in the space allocated. Please send your comments marked *Questionnaire* by 18th August to *Topic*, GEC, 1 Stanhope Gate, London W1A 1EH or fax them to us on 0171 491 0708. *Topic* will publish the results once they have been collated.



Topic as it looks today.

Please tick the appropriate box or boxes for as many questions as you wish and add any comments in the space provided. If you find yourself short of space, please use a separate sheet. We are very keen to hear your views.

1. When you read *Topic*, do you:

- a) Study it in detail?
- b) Read certain articles only?
- c) Skim through it quickly?
- d) Just glance at the pictures?

Comments

2. How do you find the overall tone of *Topic*?

- a) Too serious.
- b) Balanced.
- c) Too light.

Comments

3. Do you find the contents:

- a) Interesting?
- b) Sometimes interesting?
- c) Too technical/business oriented?
- d) Not technical/business oriented enough?
- e) Boring?

Comments

4. Do you think the design of *Topic* is:

- a) Attractive?
- b) Well presented?
- c) Satisfactory?
- d) Old-fashioned?
- e) Dull?

Comments

5. Do you find the photographs:

- a) Informative/interesting?
- b) Satisfactory?
- c) Dull?

Comments

6. How well does *Topic* keep you in touch with GEC and help you understand its business?

- a) Very well.
- b) Adequately.
- c) Not very well.

Comments

7. What would you like to see more or less of:

	more	enough	less
a) Corporate news.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) News/contracts/sales.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Company strategy.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Company profiles.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Company central services.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) New markets/legislation.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) New technologies.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h) Employee awards.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i) Training and careers.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j) Charity work.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
k) GEC in the community.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
l) Environmental issues.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
m) General interest.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
n) Competitions/special offers.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
o) People stories.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
p) Sport.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
q) Company history.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
r) Readers' letters.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
s) Diary column.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
t) Cartoons.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
u) Classified ads.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other suggestions.....			

8. Are you satisfied with the special sections in *Topic* devoted to the Annual and Interim financial results?

- a) Yes.
- b) No.

If not, what extra information do you require?

9. Would you like to see:

- a) More issues of *Topic* per year?
- b) The same amount?
- c) Fewer issues per year?

Comments

10. Do you feel that *Topic* distribution to employees is effective?

- a) Yes.
- b) No.

If not, please state why and your company site

11. At your site, is *Topic* available:

- a) Centrally?
- b) Delivered to your department?

If other, please specify

12. If you are an overseas reader, how long does it take for *Topic* to reach you?

- a) Up to one month.
- b) Between one and two months.
- c) Over two months.

In which country do you live?

13. Would you read an electronic version of *Topic* if it were available on the GEC website?

- a) Yes.
- b) No.

Comments

14. If you could change one thing about *Topic*, what would it be and why?

.....

15. Please indicate in which category you belong:

- a) Management/executive.
- b) Operative.
- c) Clerical.
- d) Technical/engineering.
- e) Other professional.
- f) Pensioner.
- g) Overseas Club.
- h) Non-GEC - please specify.....

16. Any other comments:

.....

.....

**Many thanks,
the *Topic* editorial team.**

PS. You are under no obligation to give us your name and site address, but the more information we have, the more comprehensive our survey will be. If you would like to leave your details, please do so here:

.....

Jet off to Jersey with *Topic*

SAVOUR the unique Anglo-French atmosphere of the Channel Islands from as little as £199 per adult, including return air travel and seven nights bed & breakfast accommodation.

With its fabulous cuisine, VAT-free shopping, beautiful sandy beaches and rich history, Jersey has plenty to offer. You can also visit the smaller Channel Islands of Guernsey, Alderney, Sark and Herm on day trips.

Travel to Jersey on a Saturday charter flight from either Boumemouth or Southampton and pick up your complimentary hire car when you arrive (based on two adults sharing a group A car, all you pay is CDI car insurance and petrol).

Prices are based on 'one sun' grade hotels or guest houses, but you can upgrade on application for a supplementary fee. Children under two go for free and children under 12 receive a 40% reduction when sharing a room with two adults. In addition, holiday insurance can be purchased for £18 per adult and £9 per child per week.

PRICE LIST

19 July - 30 Aug - £289

6 - 27 Sept - £239

4 - 25 Oct - £199

This holiday is operated by Travelsmith Ltd, ABTA V1290, ATOL 1917. For more information, please contact Travelsmith on 01621 784 666 quoting reference code C108GE.

Mont Orgueil Castle in Gorey, Jersey.