

aviation news digest

Industry

Black Brants launched

Canadian Bristol Aerojet successfully launched two Black Brant IV high altitude research rockets from the Churchill rocket range, Manitoba, at the end of January. Both were successful in achieving all test objectives. Diagnostic payloads of 145 lb were lifted to about 435 miles altitude, with flight durations of about 14 minutes.

Defence contract awards

Substantial defence contracts awarded recently by the Department of Defence Production include the following: **Canadair Ltd.**, Montreal, \$793,233 for air frame spares for Argus, CF-104, CF-104D and Yukon aircraft; **Rolls-Royce of Canada Ltd.**, Montreal, \$292,000 for air casings for aircraft engines; **United Aircraft of Canada Ltd.**, Longueuil, Quebec, \$207,831 for spares in support of T58-GE-8B engines for Sikorsky CHSS-2 helicopters and propellers and accessories and \$991,326 for propeller equipment for C-130E aircraft, and ball and roller bearings; **Canadian Arsenals Ltd.**, \$848,820 for V.T. fuzes and for design of a bridge throttle/steering control system; **Litton Systems (Canada) Ltd.**, Rexdale, Ont., \$108,063 for technical publications and aerospace ground equipment spares.

Military radio contract

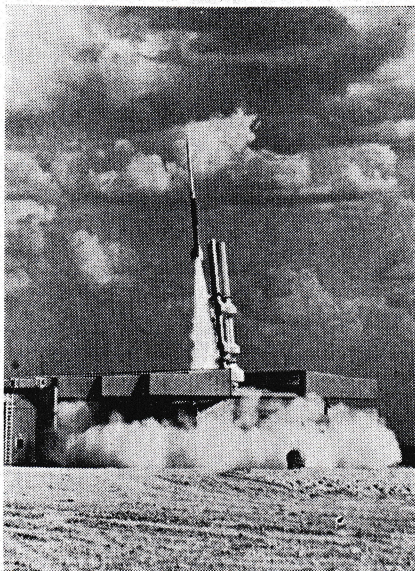
Development is underway at Collins Radio Co. of Canada, Ltd., Toronto, of a compact, multi-channel radio set, designed for military use. The light-weight radio will be a UHF transmitter-receiver capable of operation on any one of 3,500 channels.

Designated the AN/PRC-66, the radio set is being designed for use by the U.S. Air Force with a version being developed for the U.S. Marine Corps. Without battery, the unit measures 1½ by 4 by 6 in. Weight of the set with battery, antenna and accessories will be less than 10 lb. The set is intended for use by forward air controllers, paratroopers and other combat communication team members for two-way ground-to-air line-of-sight communications.

GE award for Bristol

Bristol Aero-Industries Ltd., Winnipeg, received the "Vendor of the month" award from GE's small aircraft engine department, Lynn, Mass., last month. The Winnipeg firm, which makes afterburner liners for GE's J85 jet engine, was chosen from among 1,350 suppliers because of the company's outstanding record in meeting quality, cost, and delivery requirements.

Bristol is the first Canadian vendor to win the award and ranks as the major Canadian supplier of GE small engine



Black Brant II launch

parts, sharing \$2 million in orders in 1964 with Aviation Electric, Central Dynamics, and Lucas-Rotax in Montreal; Haley Industries, Haley, Ont.; Renfrew Aircraft & Engineering Ltd., Renfrew, Ont.; and Walbar Machine Products, and York Gears, Ltd., Toronto.

DDP gets new look

Industry Minister C. M. Drury announced plans for transformation of the Department of Defence Production into a new Department of Supply, on the lines recommended by the Glassco commission. The new department will look after purchasing for all civil departments of the federal government as well as military procurement, and will integrate purchasing and supply functions.

PT6 business grows

Another aircraft announced with Pratt and Whitney PT6 turbine power is the Swearingen Merlin II, a pressurized seven/eight place twin due to make its first flight this month. Early marketing information quotes a price of about \$300,000 (U.S.) and certification in the normal category CAR Part 3. Up to now Swearingen Aircraft, which is located at San Antonio, Texas, has undertaken modifications to existing types, and has



PT6-powered Merlin II

produced prototype aircraft for other manufacturers.

Vast new potential for production of the lightweight PT6 turbine by United Aircraft of Canada Ltd., Montreal, is envisaged in the proposal of Chicago Helicopter Airways to replace the single piston engine in each of its Sikorsky S-58 helicopters with three PT-6 turbines. The conversion, at a cost of \$150,000 per aircraft, promises to greatly improve economy of operation, increase performance, and ease FAA restricting operation regulations through multi-engine safety. Chicago Helicopters has four S-58s at present, and proposes to acquire a further two turbine engined models; but the plan opens up prospects for the conversion of other S-58s, more than 1,700 of which have been built.

Orenda wins U.S. contract

The Orenda division of Hawker Siddeley Canada Ltd., Malton, Ont., received a contract worth \$4 million from the U.S. Army for the development of a 600 hp gas turbine for propulsion of a military surface vehicle.

Producing F-5 cells

With a follow-on award for the production of almost a million dollars worth of fuel cells for the Northrop F-5 tactical fighter, Dominion Rubber Co., Kitchener, Ont., becomes the sole supplier of these to Northrop Corp., El Segundo, Calif.

U.S. utility exports

Utility aircraft exports from the U.S. showed a 13% increase in units and 26% dollar volume increase in 1964, compared with the previous year. During '64, Aero Commander, Beech, Cessna and Piper exported 1,775 utility aircraft worth \$44,118,286.

Hovercraft in Japan

Through an arrangement with Westland Aircraft Ltd., Great Britain, two Japanese companies plan to build Hovercraft under license. A Westland SRN-5 craft has been shipped to Japan as a specimen and the first Japanese-produced hovercraft should be completed by the summer of 1966.

Stretch for CL-44s

Icelandic Airlines (Loftledir) has ordered an additional two Canadair CL-44 passenger airliners and is planning to stretch the fuselages of its CL-44 fleet by 15 ft to provide accommodation for 189 passengers. Icelandic bought the first two 44s last year and has reported excellent operating results from the aircraft. The third aircraft will enter service in May and the fourth will be delivered in the spring of 1966, after get-