aviation intelligence

BMEWS Details Released

First details have been released of the huge tracking assemblies being built for installation in Northern latitudes in connection with the USAF Ballistics Missile Early Warning System. Stations in the system will detect and track enemy ICBM's while still over enemy territory, enabling NORAD to alert its defensive and retaliatory forces. The system features tracking radars designed by the Radio Corp. of America, the prime contractor, and General Electric detection radars, developed in conjunction with Lincoln Laboratories, the M.I.T., and ARDC. Goodyear Aircraft Corp. is producing antenna dishes over 80 feet in diameter and three-storey-high pedestals to support them. The pedestal and rotating antenna together weigh about 186 tons. Goodyear is also constructing a 140 ft. rigid spherical prototype radome to protect the units. The BMEWS system is designed to detect and track an invading missile as soon as it appears above the horizon, and to determine its course and probable target.

U. K. Flying Saucer

A British "flying saucer" is scheduled to fly this month (June). It is reported to be a revolutionary machine that will skim the surface of the sea supported by a cushion of air. Prototype hovercraft, designed by the National Research Development Corporation, and built by Saunders-Roe Ltd., East Cowes, Isle of Wight, is 34 ft. long and 24 ft. wide. It is powered by a 450-hp engine, driving a ducted fan, which supplies both lift and propulsion. If trials are successful, operational craft weighing 100 tons, and suitable for fast ferry across the English Channel, are envisaged.

Companies Pool Resources

A team for the Canadian manufacture of equipment designed by Lear Inc., Santa Monica, Calif., has been formed by Railway and Power Engineering Corp. Ltd., Canadian Flight Equipment Cobourg Ltd., Servomechanisms (Canada) Ltd., and Tamper Ltd. Railway and Power will perform the over-all management function, Servomechanisms will build the electronic assemblies, Canadian Flight Equipment will produce the mechanical components, and Tamper will provide the necessary rotating electrical equipment. The aim is to market Lear products with a high Canadian manufacturing content at prices comparable to those prevailing in the U. S. The line will include flight control systems, reference systems, gyros, stable platforms, servos and acutators.

BOAC From Toronto

As a result of changes in the agreement between Canada and the U. K., the British Overseas Airways Corporation will be permitted to operate into Toronto on its North Atlantic route from March 1, 1960. Boeing 707's or Bristol Britannias will likely be employed. The United Kingdom granted Canada the right to originate flights in Toronto destined for Hong Kong; to originate flights in Western Canada destined for the U. K.; and rights in Europe between London and Brussels, Dusseldorf, Zurich and Vienna.

Toronto/Hamilton 'Copter Service

Hamilton Helicopters Ltd., has been granted a Class 3 specific point license by the DOT for operations within a 25-mile radius of Malton Airport, Toronto. A twice daily air express freight service between Toronto and Hamilton is to be operated by the company, which is a subsidiary of Autair Helicopters Ltd., Montreal, Que. A heliport is planned on the bayfront at Hamilton, only 1½ miles from the downtown area, as a base for the company's operations. Present charter contracts include one with Hamilton CHML radio for use of a Bell two-place helicopter as a traffic condition broadcast spotter twice weekly.