

# GVG awarded biggest contract ever

By ELAINE WILSON  
Editor, GVG Channels

GRASS VALLEY—The contract is signed, delivered, and work has begun on the biggest single job in the history of Grass Valley Group, Tek's subsidiary in California.

The company has been awarded a \$4.35 million contract with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for production of a 440 routing switching system to be used at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida where the space shuttle and other satellites are launched.

It's the company's first major government contract and perhaps the largest single move to date towards penetrating the non-broadcasting market. With this order, Broadcast Systems Division has already exceeded their order goal for FY400.

"This is basically a new market," Division Manager Danny Ebner said, "and if we're successful, it could lead to more government contracts—meaning more jobs and growth on a permanent basis."

The project will take 15 months to complete with a December, 1984 shipment deadline.

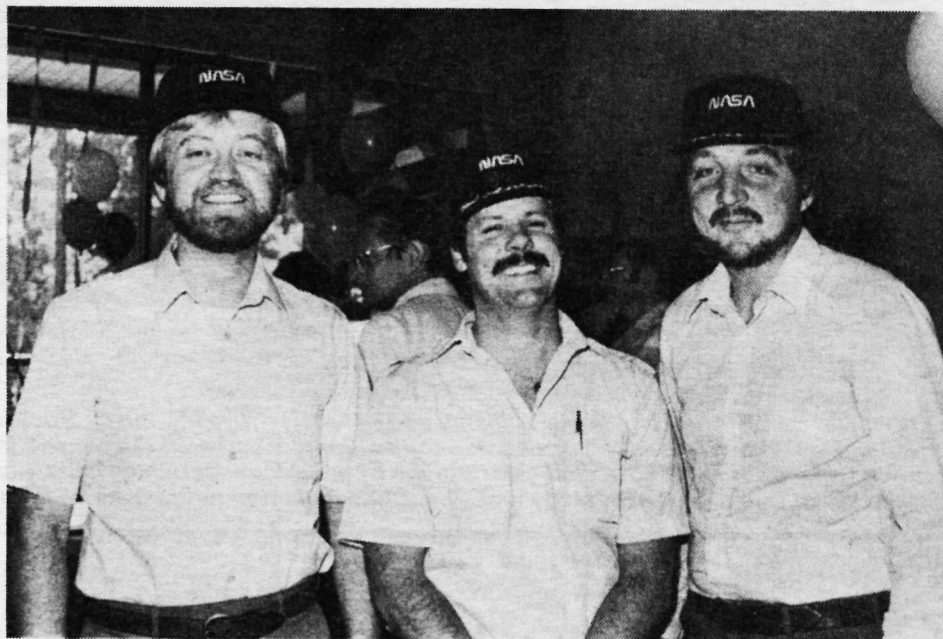
BSD celebrated their windfall at a noontime bash on October 20.

"You should be very proud," GVG General Manager Dan Wright told the crowd. "The contract was announced at a recent Tek Board of Directors meeting as the largest single-quantity order in the history of Tektronix."

Larry Whitfield was identified as program manager for the project, bringing with him years of experience in government contract work. Barry Hill has been named manufacturing project manager.

"We are going to produce one horrendously big 440," said Senior Software Engineer Frank Way. "It will include 22 equipment racks—each 122 inches high and 34 inches deep, 32 miles of cable in the switcher racks, a custom control system with four full-function control panels, a master control console, and custom software."

The largest switcher GVG has ever built will be located in a control center adjacent to the Vehicle Assembly building, the se-



**GRASS VALLEY GROUP held a noontime bash on October 20 to celebrate \$4.35 million contract from NASA for production of a 440 routing switching system. Joining celebration are (from left) Dan Wright, GVG general manager; Larry Whitfield, program manager for the project; and Denny Ebner, Broadcast Systems Division manager.**

cond largest building in the world in terms of volume, where the shuttle is assembled. It will replace an obsolete relay-type switcher to increase the capabilities of the entire system at the Space Center.

Sources of video—cameras at various launch pads and other areas—will be routed through the switcher to numerous separate destinations, most of which will be equipped with a controller for selecting video source to be viewed at that location.

The system will have the capacity for insertion of countdown information in each one of the video outputs. There will be two video status display systems for displaying the status of the switcher and a

line printer for logging all switching functions.

According to Way, NASA was impressed with GVG's reputation for quality and reliability.

"NASA has a quality reputation and they came to us for that. They can't afford to make any mistakes," Dan added.

## Thoughts to thmink about

An optimist is a guy who fastens his seat belt with confidence sublime before trying to start his car on a morning in wintertime. *Tek Rock Club News*