Story of newest spectrum analyzer reflects team effort

By FDI BUSINESS UNIT

If you are one of the hundreds of Teks who have played a part in the development and introduction of our newest spectrum analyzer, give yourself a pat on the back.

For you others, the Frequency Domain Instrument Business Unit of the Communications Division would like you to know the story of Tek's newest spectrum analyzer—the 492.

More than a decade years ago, Tek introduced its first portable spectrum analyzer, the 491. The 491 was well received and is still a customer favorite. Today the 492—our new, portable, microprocessor-controlled analyzer—is well on its way to a similar success.

Even though the two photos of Morris Engelson may look similar, the lack of a beard is the beginning of a list of improvements in today's picture. The 492 is improved inside and out. The 492 and its programmable cousin, the 492P, offer our customers an imposing list of superlative characteristics, many never before available in a single rugged, portable spectrum analyzer.

(Spectrum analyzers have the ability to display frequency characteristics of complicated electronic signals. Among a wide range of applications are testing radio, television and radar transmissions, trying to determine the source of unknown electronic signals, and testing microwave ovens.)

We weren't exaggerating earlier when we congratulated many hundreds of our colleagues for their participation on the 492. This instrument was truly a team effort and it started about four years ago.

The U.S. Navy and other government and commercial customers could foresee complex and stringent spectrum analysis needs for the future.

Tek met the challenge by fielding an imposing team of government and commercial marketing managers, field engineers and electrical and mechanical engineers.

Members of the team included: Andy Morrow, U.S. Navy Account specialist; John Martin, Government Marketing, Beaverton; Larry Lockwood, EE project engineer; Leighton Whitsett, ME project leader; Len

Jack Robert's crew was responsible for building such complex devices as the YIG preselector.

To hold this monumental effort together, Steve Morton was named project manager. Craig Bryant and Linley Gumm played key roles in the GPIB interface and programmability features of the 492. And that's only the electrical side.

Carlos Beeck lead the Mechanical Engineering crew to develop a structure that would withstand the rigors of stringent Mil testing. For example, the 492 must operate after a 12-inch drop on any axis. This instrument must also be easy to service. Probably the most difficult repair job is changing the CRT and that is completed in minutes.

For the first time FDI Engineering had a full-time reliability engineer. Bill Pederson has spent the last two years finding the 492's weak spots so they could be corrected.

If it sounds like we in FDI are proud, you bet we are. And we are proud not only of our accomplishments but of the help and support we have received from all the areas of the company. Cables and Plastics from Vancouver, Metals, Electrochem, CRT and our Assembly areas in Beaverton.

Product Safety, Industrial Design, Standards, the Environmental Labs, Patents, Reprographics...the list goes on and it looks like the Tek phone book. We can all be proud of the 492.

Where are we today?

Spectrum Analyzer Manufacturing reached a significant milestone just before Thanksgiving. Under the direction of Wade Trine, the production groups of Jim Anderson and Pat Buckley have worked seven days a week for six weeks to meet customer deadlines.

Initial shipments to the U.S. Navy and commercial introduction were on schedule because of the dedication and support of the assemblers, ECB builders, and our Product staff engineer, Bob Malinen.

Marketing has been napping either, product introductions include many complex programs.

Len Garrett has kept things moving in Marketing with the help of many support specialists.

FDI field specialists from around the world attended John David's New Product Sales Training Seminar several weeks ago. He was supported by FDI people and Bill Baunach, Steve Coan, Bob Cran and Morris Graube from SPS.

Diane Godfrey and Collin Chamberlin of Advertising coordinated the production of a magazine ad, the placement of technical articles and a colorful cover featuring the 492 on the November issue of Microwaves. A 16-page brochure will follow in December.

As if to recognize the achievements of the 492, the videotape shown to our first customers won national recognition by the International Television Association.

In order to recognize the 492 group for their outstanding efforts, a banquet was held on November 30. Steve Morton reviewed the project and Tom Long, Division manager discussed the importance of such an instrument to the Communications Division and the company.

Vince Lutheran, FDI Business Unit manager, capped the evening off by presenting 10 plaques for outstanding participation on the 492 project.

The awards went to Brian Dolinar, Alice O'Rear, Dave Patton, Karen Wright, Bob Vistica, Bob Malinen, John Tils, Leighton Whitsett, Steve Morton and Don Gillispie.

It's quite a story and it has really just begun. To everyone who has contributed along the line, a special thanks from the FDI Business Unit.