

# PRODUCT NEWS

## CCT wins top Production Engineering Award

A ballot among 13,500 of Britain's senior Production Engineers gave CCT Theatre Lighting of Mitcham the top award for "the most innovative use of Production Automation".

John Schwiller, CCT's Research Director, received the award at a gala dinner



CCT's design team, John Schwiller (Director of Research) with Roger Beckett and Andy Gibson.

in Birmingham on June 19th which coincided with the first day of the International Machine Tool Exhibition at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham. This exhibition, one of the world's most important occasions for manufacturing technology, is held in the U.K. every four years. This is the first ever Production Engineering Award. It emphasises that production innovation is just as important as innovative design in helping Britain regain its leadership in manufacturing excellence. The awards were sponsored by *Machinery and Production Engineering Magazine* and editor Chris Powley echoed this thinking when discussing the competition.

The award to CCT centres on their use of a computer controlled automated punch press and bending machine, both of which are supported by a computer aided design system, developed by CCT in association with RADAN. These manufacturing and design resources help CCT not only to speed their manufacturing methods but to achieve the high quality of their product. There is little that CCT now manufacture which does not involve some aspect of this new technology.

Before the national ballot, entrants for the *Machinery* award were shortlisted by a panel of leading industrialists, chaired by John Collins, OBE, Director of Manufacturing Technology at TI Group Domestic Appliances. The awards were presented by Sir Alan Veale, Vice President of the Institution of Production Engineers.

As a major manufacturer of theatre and television lighting equipment, CCT products are exported throughout the world. Their computer controlled systems came on-stream in February 1981 and comprise a

RADAN Computational Software package, AMADA CNC Turret press and a K. & B. CNC Press Brake. CCT worked closely with RADAN, a British company, to develop design software tailored to the needs of light engineering.

Over a period of a year and a half an original and revolutionary sheet metal working technique was developed, appealing in its apparent simplicity and elegance, even to the Japanese press manufacturers.

The origami-like process enables a complex metal blank to be produced that can then be bent up by hand. Allied to this is a method of producing small components so as to reduce the labour required in subsequent processes to a minimum.

The expertise gained by CCT in this area has now become well known in British industry, and was one of the reasons why the Department of Trade and Industry selected them to take part in the CAD/CAM Awareness Scheme. This enables other U.K. industrialists to visit CCT's Mitcham factory for a day to learn first hand about the benefits of using computers in the design and manufacture of a bright new range of imaginative products.

For further information contact Philip Rose, CCT Theatre Lighting Ltd, Windsor House, 26 Willow Lane, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 4NA. Tel 01-640-3366.

## Total "Eclipse" in Holland

"The Eclipse is a wonderful machine, so simple and quick to use. It never puts a foot wrong . . ." This is how Fritz Blomsma of Flashlight, Utrecht, describes the stunning performance of the Zero 88 Eclipse control at this year's Eurovision Song Contest. Flashlight of Holland supplied the 2 x 60-channel Eclipse desks and Rackmaster dimmers used for the programme including cartridge effects panels and programmable chasers.

Further information from Zero 88 Lighting Ltd, Hart Road, St. Albans, Herts AL1 1NA. 0727-33271.

## A smile at the end of the 'phone

This is how Canford Audio describes its technical sales staff. Well might the customer smile too. Possessed of a catalogue like the latest one it becomes a pretty simple and straightforward operation for the sound man to identify exactly what he wants in this Aladdin's cave of sound equipment.

Everything is here from Accoustic Tables (which started it all), Loudspeakers, Microphones, Amplifiers down to the humble XLR connector of which more than 50 are listed. All items have their ordering code and prices clearly stated, many illustrated to assist identification. The day-to-day requirements of sound users are well served by a same day despatch service which can

supply most items from stock. To get on the mailing list write to Canford Audio Ltd., Stargate Works, Ryton, Tyne and Wear NE40 3BR.

## Follow on follow spots by Colortran

Better lighting options for the designer are provided by Colortran's expanded follow



spot range which now includes four Xenon arc models plus one with economical tungsten halogen source. At the top of the range the powerful *Color Arc 3000* with 500 ft throw and suitable for the very largest theatres.

*Color Arc 2000* For some time now a well established leader in big theatre follow spots for throws up to 350 ft.

*Color Arc 2000 ST* Short-throw version of the 2000 intended for television and small theatres but designed to give extra punch at 200 ft. throws.

*Color Arc 700* is a first time portable follow spot. Weight including stand and power supply only 168 lb. Throw 200 ft, ideal for tight locations and when colour balancing is critical

*Color Beam 1000* Utilises tungsten halogen light source. Thoroughly professional in operation and performance with a 90 ft throw. A natural and economic choice for schools and conventions.

Now with the acquisition by Colortran UK of Tulla Lighting, the *Lito* series of floods, fresnels and spots will be marketed under the Colortran banner thus providing an altogether impressive and comprehensive theatre lighting range.

For more information contact Colortran U.K., PO Box 5, Burrell Way, Thetford, Norfolk IP24 3RB. 0842-2484.