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Composite Materials bought
The issued share capital of Rolls-Royce (Composite Materials) and Hyfil is to be acquired from the re-ceiver of Rolls-Royce, Mr Rupert Nicholson, by a group headed by Mr W. R. Fames, managing director of RRCM.

The new company is provisionally called Bristol Composite Materials and Sir Hugh Weeks has agreed to act as chairman.
Discussions have taken place with the National Research Development Council, basic licensor for the manu-facture of carbon fibre, and the NRDC has agreed in principle to the new company taking over the licence.

In brief

An electronic spirit level, the Electro-level, is now being produced and sold by the Electronics Divison of Irvin Great Britain (contact Eric Williams & Partners, 21 Whitefriars St, London EC4Y 8EY; tel 01-353 5618) under ex-clusive licence from BAC. The instru-ment can be used at altitude and in a typical assembly measures 8inX6inX 4in, with a weight of less than 101b. The unit is claimed to be capable of measuring angular displacement equi-valent to lin in three miles, and can be used as an aid for helicopters land-ing on oil-rig platforms, for co-ordi-nating jacks necessary for undercar-riage maintenance, and for deter-mining the true horizon of radars.

North American Rockwell Micro-electronics (3430 Miraloma Avenue, Anaheim, Calif 92803) claims to be the world's first large-scale producer of liquid crystal displays (LCDs), which it is constructing for use in more than 200,000 calculators. The displays con-sist of two glass plates, bonded to-gether but separated by about one-thousandth of an inch. The space is filled with a transparent organic chemical in liquid form. When a 25V differential is applied the organic molecules are disturbed and the area scatters light, appearing to glow. The differential is applied so that glowing

digits are formed, and NRMEC claims that a substantial cost reduction over conventional displays can be achieved.

EMI-Varian (Hayes, Middx; tel 01-573 3888) has introduced its 8906AL planar triode, which is claimed to be ideally suited for use in high-altitude airborne radars (Tacan/DME). The triode is guaranteed for 4,000hr.

Imperial Metal Industries has formed IMI Engineering Composites at Witton, Birmingham, to handle de-sign and manufacture on a commer-cial scale of fibre-reinforced-plastic components. The new company has its own manufacturing and testing facili-ties.

A new family of Teflon fluorocarbon resins, known as Teflon PFA, has been produced by Du Pont (UK office: 18 Bream's Buildings, Fetter Lane, London EC4; tel 01-242 9044). The new melt-extrudable plastic is claimed to combine the high-temperature per-formance and ease of fabrication which are found individually in other members of the Teflon family.

The American Astronautical Society
is appealing for papers to be read at the International Congress on Space Benefits which it is holding in Dallas from June 19-21, 1973. The theme of the congress is emphasis on the spin-off obtained from space programmes. Two-hundred-word abstracts and 500-to 1,000-word descriptions amplifying the abstracts should be submitted by October 15 to Dr Frank S. Johnson, technical programme chairman, Uni-versity of Texas at Dallas, PO Box 30365, Dallas, Texas 75230.

United Flexible Metallic Tubing (South St, Ponders End, Enfield, Middx) has introduced a range of thin-wall stainless-steel rigid tubing. Out-side diameters range from 7-7mm (0-303in) to 102-86mm (4-05m), and thicknesses from 0-102mm (0-004in) to 0-305mm (0 012in).

Who's selling what

Nasa's Goddard Space Flight Centre (Greenbelt, Md) has awarded Bendix Field Engineering Corp (Columbia, Md) a 30-month, $35 million contract to maintain and operate part of the Space Flight Tracking and Data Net-work.

The British Ministry of Defence has ordered pulse radar altimeters worth £600,000 from the Aviation Division of Smiths Industries (Wembley, Middx). The same company is also to supply altimeters and combined speed indicators for the Yakovlev (Bussia) Yak-40.

Areata Data Management (Hawthorne, Calif) has been awarded a $500,000 contract by Sogitec (France) for tech-nical documentation support of the Dassault-Breguet Mercure.

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LTV Aerospace (Dallas, Tex) has re-ceived a 14-month subcontract from La Compagnie Central d'Etudes Indus-trielles (Paris) to study the possibility of using LTV's Airtrans transit system at Roissy Airport, Paris.

Pan American has bought an X-ray baggage-screening system for its J. F. Kennedy Airport terminal from Bendix Aerospace Systems Division (Ann Arbor, Mich).
The Chinese Government has ordered from ML Aviation (White Waltham, Berks) two Coolair Mk 7 aircraft air-conditioning trolleys for use with the HS Tridents on order for CAAC.

Volvo Flygmotor (Sweden) has ordered titanium compressor blades worth £35,000 from Doncasters Monk Bridge (Leeds).

Industrial Acoustics (Staines, Middx) has delivered jet-engine ground-run silencers worth £20,000 to Aviation Traders (Stansted Airport).

Ansett Airlines (Australia) has ordered air-data-computer automatic test equipment from Sperry Flight Systems Division (Phoenix, Ariz).

Chicago O'Hare Airport has ordered two Speedwalk passenger conveyor systems from Goodyear (Akron. Ohio).

People and posts

AMF-Venner has appointed Mr Jack Holley as director of manufacturing. Mr Alfred C. Herrera has joined E-Systems as director of international marketing.

Mr Geoffrey C. Bendle has been appointed manager of Endevco UK's Engine Vibration Monitoring Group. Mr Fred Seibart has been named US Polymerias sales manager for aerospace and aircraft products.

Mr Richard D. Lewis has been ap-pointed vice-president and acting general manager of the Pace Division of Ambac Industries.

Mr John Squires has been named manager of European operations for the NavCom Systems Division of Hoffman Electronics.

Mr R. A. Cole has been appointed sales manager of the Valve Product Division of ITT Components Group Europe.
Air Cdre Roger L. Topp has been appointed deputy general manager of the Nato Multi-Role Combat Aircraft Management Agency (Namma).
The Small Engine Division of Rolls-Royce (1971) has appointed Mr J. P. McMahon as commercial director and Mr A. M. Cundick as marketing direc-tor.

Mr Dolor P. Murray has been elected executive vice-president and Mr John F. McDonnell has been electe d corporate vice-president, finance and planning, of McDonnell Douglas.