

NIH GUIDE

for GRANTS and CONTRACTS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

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HEALTH COMMUNICATIONS BY SATELLITE

A N N O U N C E M E N T

A collaboration between the governments of Canada and the United States will result in the launching of a Communications Technology Satellite (CTS) in December 1975. After several months of testing and adjustment, this satellite will be available three days a week to each country for the experimental application to a variety of communications problems. Acting as technical coordinator and facilitator on behalf of the health community, the Lister Hill National Center for Biomedical Communications of the National Library of Medicine has tentatively requested nine hours per week for health-related applications of this unique communications system.

Briefly described, the satellite will be capable of blanketing the entire continental United States from its stationary position over the equator. It will have two movable "footprints", each of which can cover approximately one-third of the Nation at a time. The satellite will permit bidirectional audiovisual connections between ground terminals.

The Lister Hill Center plans to install several stationary ground stations at hospitals and other appropriate facilities, and to install at least one mobile station in a motor van. From these ground stations it will be possible to interconnect with surface communications systems, thus expanding the potential audience.

The possible applications to health are multitude, and include public and professional education, communication of research results, teleconferencing, remote professional consultation, etc., in any of the health disciplines. In all cases, uses of the system will be experimental. Evaluation of effectiveness, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness compared to alternative systems will be an important objective.

The choice and development of program content will be the responsibility of the Federal health agencies and their constituents in the private sector. Suggestions for program content should be submitted to the appropriate health agency by July 31, 1975. Planning for utilization of the system is now in progress. More detailed information may be obtained from Mr. Earl Henderson, Chief, Communications Engineering Branch, Lister Hill National Center for Biomedical Communications, National Library of Medicine, Bethesda, Maryland 20014.

The GUIDE is published at irregular intervals to provide policy and administrative information to individuals and organizations who need to be kept informed of requirements and changes in grants and contracts activities administered by the National Institutes of Health.

Supplements, printed on yellow paper, are published by the respective awarding units concerning new projects, solicitations of sources, and requests for proposals.

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Division of Biomedical Information Support
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