

INDUSTRY International

Products

Company News

Great Britain

New Products placed on the British market in recent weeks include modular power units for powering digital logic systems, by **Standard Telephones and Cables** (63 Aldwych, London WC2). They offer economies in overall systems because their high stability and low ripple content permit a single equipment to power an entire system.

Designed for GW systems, the G.100 range of two- and four-pole changeover miniature sealed relays by **Parmeko Ltd** (Thames Road, Barking, Essex) incorporate a balanced relay to withstand shocks and vibration.

A new series of medium-power silicon planar transistors—lower cost, higher performance versions of the earlier 2N1084—is available from **Transitron Electronic Ltd** (Gardner Road, Maidenhead, Berks).

BAC (Weybridge) has used for several months a shot-blast room for the finishing of light-alloy machined components and stainless-steel fabrications. The first such equipment to be designed specifically to handle non-ferrous materials, the waffle-floor blast room is by **Vacu-Blast Ltd** (Woodson House, Ajax Avenue, Slough, Bucks).

A Plessey subsidiary, **Ketay Ltd**, has developed in conjunction with Harowe Servo Controls Inc, of West Chester, Penn, a range of brushless control synchros, in which conventional brushgear is replaced by a rotary injection transformer obviating all physical parts for rotor coupling, and thus preventing faults occurring through brush bounce or wear.

A large "cab-on-plough" snowblower designed specifically for airports and motorways is offered by **Rolba Ltd** (Charlwoods Road, East Grinstead, Sussex). The R-1500 has a clearance capacity of 1,500 tons/hr, four-wheel drive, rear-wheel steering and, in the standard version, two Deutz air-cooled diesels of 145 h.p. and 230 h.p. respectively. Snowclearing is possible at speeds of up to 20 m.p.h.

Honeywell Appointment Mr Bruce Partridge has been appointed marketing manager for ordnance in the Military Products Group of Honeywell Controls Ltd. He joins Honeywell from Elliott Bros (London) Ltd, where he was field services manager of the communications and radar group. He served for 14 years in the Royal Navy, most of the time with the Fleet Air Arm, before leaving in 1954 to begin his civilian career as technical adviser to the chief designer at Fairey Aviation.

In his new appointment with Honeywell he succeeds Mr Eric Nicholson, who has been appointed chief inspector at the company's Hemel Hempstead plant.

Plessey Reorganization By a major reorganization, announced last week, the Plessey Co Ltd is to realign its operations in the UK into five self-contained product groups under the single name Plessey: Automation, Components, Dynamics, Electronics and Telecommunications.

This reorganization is the culmination of changes that have been going on since Plessey merged with Automatic Telephone & Electric Co Ltd, Ericsson Telephones Ltd and Garrard Engineering Ltd in the early 1960s. The primary aim is to bring together the capabilities of the present operating companies into these five growth areas.

Appointed chief executive of Plessey Dynamics under the reorganization scheme is Mr D. R. Trowbridge, hitherto general manager of Plessey-UK's Aircraft Equipment Group



Each of the new Product Groups will be under the control of a chief executive, who will report directly to Mr John Clark as managing director and chief executive of the Plessey Co Ltd. Appointed to the five posts are Mr H. E. C. Nash (Automation), Mr E. E. Webster (Components), Mr D. R. Trowbridge (Dynamics), Gp Capt Fennessy (Electronics) and Mr F. Limb (Telecommunications).

Important changes are also being made in the organization overseas. In both Australia and South Africa operations are to be headed by a single chief executive in each territory. Plessey, with more than 20 per

cent of its turnover going abroad, is already one of Britain's largest exporters, and it is intended to raise this figure still further.

The board, which remains unchanged, believes that two other aspects are essential to continued growth. The first is strategic planning, which will become the personal responsibility of Mr Michael Clark, as a deputy managing director; the second is the need to strengthen the company's position internationally, and here Mr A. E. Underwood, the other deputy managing director, "will assist in developing an aggressive programme of international expansion."

USA

A New Infra-red Instrument to detect minute leaks in pressurized systems is being marketed by the Scientific and Process Instruments Division of Beckman Instruments Inc, of Fullerton, California. It is stated that the instrument can locate a leak as small as 0.1 cu in/hr in any system that has above-atmospheric internal pressure.

The system to be checked is first filled with a gas (usually nitrous oxide). Detection is then accomplished by a hand-held probe which the operator uses to collect a continuous sample of the atmosphere surrounding the surface of the system. Since nitrous oxide is not normally found in the atmosphere, its presence in the air sample continuously being collected by the probe indicates a leak. Whenever the presence of the gas is detected an audio signal is transmitted to a headset worn by the operator, and this signal reaches its highest frequency at the point of the leak's greatest magnitude. A read-out on the instrument console indicates the severity of the leak by showing the amount of gas detected.

This helicopter factory with the car plant look is the Bell Helicopter Company's Fort Worth, Texas, final assembly building, with 53 examples of various UH-1 Iroquois models visible. On February 28 Bell completed 100 consecutive months of on-schedule deliveries to the US Government, during which over 2,000 military helicopters and several hundred civil models were produced

