Northrop writes off F-20 costs

Development of the F-20 Tigershark cost Northrop $258 million in 1982, and this was written off as incurred. Profit for the year was down from $48 million to $5.4 million on sales of $2,470 million and $1,990 million respectively. Northrop wrote off $154 million of Tigershark expenditures in 1981.

Fairchild tightens its belt

A reduction in A-10 deliveries to the USAF and the continuing commercial-aircraft recession resulted in a lower profit for Fairchild in 1982—$35 million compared with $64 million in 1981 on sales of $1,100 million compared with $1,300 million. The company has written off its Boeing 757 subcontract cost overruns (dealt with in the last quarter declined to $296 million from $362 million in the 1981 quarter.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Industrial espionage and how to prevent it is to be discussed at the International Fire, Security and Safety Exhibition and Conference (IFSSC 83) at London's Olympia, April 18-22 (Victor Green Publications, Cavendish House, 128-134 Cleveland Street, London W1P 5DN, England; tel 01-387 5050).

Ludwig Kathrein is appointed deputy managing director (vice-president) of Euromissile in succession to Friedemann Striegel. He also becomes administrator of Euromissile Dynamics Group. Kathrein has been in charge of economic and commercial affairs with MBB's Missiles Division.

John P. Balaguer has been appointed executive vice-president of United Technologies' Pratt & Whitney Group manufacturing division. French-born Balaguer was most recently vice-president of the Sikorsky S-76 programme.

Elecma, the electronics division of Sncema, has appointed Philippe Bry head of research and development, and Bernard Dorier as head of commercial and programmes department.

WHO'S NEWS

Space Shuttle workers could eat their lunch off the floor of this Edwards Air Force Base hangar, thanks to the Tennant 550 rider-scrubber. This 63 h.p. unit cleans the urethane-coated floor at up to 81,000 ft² per hour, picking up debris in one pass. This version works off a 72v battery; liquid-fuel versions are also available. It carries 140gal of cleaning fluid and has a 2-6ft³ debris-hopper. Contact Tennant Maintenance Systems, Pool Road, East Molesey, Surrey, KT8 0HN, England; tel 01-941 5585.

Night-vision goggles made by Wild Heerbrugg of Switzerland are said to be particularly useful for airport security observation. The goggles, Wild BIG2, weigh little more than 1lb and are carried like binoculars or secured to the head to leave hands free for driving. The image-intensifier amplifies residual light from the Moon or stars. Contact Wild Heerbrugg, CH-9435 Heerbrugg, Switzerland; tel 071 703131.

Fire-blocking curtains to protect cabin interiors from fuel-fire heat are being successfully tested at the FAA technical centre, Atlantic City Airport, NJ 08405, USA; tel (609) 641-8200 ext 2222.

WHO'S SELLING

The Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough has selected Honeywell Information systems to supply computers valued at “several million pounds” in the largest single-location order ever placed by the UK’s Central Computer and Telecommunications Agency. The RAE will use the computers for mathematical modelling, simulation, and the reduction and analysis of data in such specialised fields as flow calculations, weapon-system simulation, and finite-element analysis. Included in the order, under Honeywell subcontracts, is the CRAY-1 supercomputer supplied by Cray Research (UK).

MUST READ

A guide to British companies offering products and services in all fields of engineering is available in Dial Industry 1983 edition, covering the fields of aerospace, mechanical engineering, metals, fluid power, vehicles, railways, marine engineering, heating, ventilation, and refrigeration. (Clive Fosket, Executive Publisher, IPC Business Press Information Services, Windsor Court, East Grinstead House, East Grinstead, West Sussex. RH19 1XAS.)