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NASA TECH BRIEF

Marshall Space Flight Center



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Video Information System

A computerized information storage and display system has been developed that can be used by organizations which maintain complex, comprehensive, or voluminous records, and require that these records be rapidly retrievable. This system will direct the storage of documents, drawings, photographs, fingerprints, etc., and permit their retrieval for real-time viewing on remote consoles.

Items to be stored in the system are processed and assigned a number or tape address in the image file. They are then photographed with a television camera, converted into television images, and recorded on magnetic tape with a videotape recorder. The basic system is designed and used to store information concerning parts and reliability data on space hardware.

The system is unique in that it was the first application of professional broadcast video technology in conjunction with a new tape transport mechanism and a digital address system to direct a computer for indexing and tape handling. A small computer was utilized for system control interfaces.

Improvements made on the basic system have resulted in a current system that can be adapted to commercial and governmental uses.

The greatest improvements have been in the development of a vidicon tube display, with picture resolution of 1280 lines, compared to the 1050 lines in the basic system. A new camera was developed for use with the vidicon tube, and an electrostatic hard copy printer was

made available for obtaining hard copy of the information being projected on the viewer.

The system stores approximately 125,000 standard 8½ x 11-inch size sheets on one 10-inch video tape reel, with total capacity being limited only by the number of reels used.

Notes:

1. This innovation may be of interest to law enforcement agencies, insurance companies, automotive industries, libraries, and information retrieval services.
2. Requests for further information may be directed to:
Technology Utilization Officer
Marshall Space Flight Center
Code A&TS-TU
Huntsville, Alabama 35812
Reference: B72-10267

Patent status:

Inquiries about obtaining rights for the commercial use of this invention may be made to:

Patent Counsel,
Marshall Space Flight Center
Code A&TS-PAT
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Source: E. R. Ritch of
Ampex Corporation
under contract to
Marshall Space Flight Center
(MFS-21711)

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