Vew equipment nakes northern onstruction easy United Press International

NEW YORK — Construction work in Alaska is a race against time and the rigors of the Arctic winter but ultra-modern computer peripheral equipment is making

Take the case of Litwin Corp., a Houston petrochemical construction subsidiary of Royal Little's Amtel Corp. of Providence, R.I. Litwin has a big job

Providence, R.I. Litwin has a big job underway at the appropriately named hamlet of North Pole, Alaska.

"In that climate, if you miss a deadline or two between March and September, you'll have to wait until the next spring thaw to make up the lost time — if you have good luck," says LeRoy Fronk, director of data processing for Litwin.

And, he explained, today's building methods, particularly those that must be

employed in sophisticated petroleum and petrochemical projects, require the rapid transmission and digesting of vast amounts

"The problem until recently," he said, "was that by the time the data was gathered and processed, it frequently was outdated before management and the top engineers had time to react to it. This forced a contractor to resort to educated guesswork and often the guesses missed." One thing that had to be calculated was

"local productivity. Litwin has engaged in sophisticated construction much around the world and it has discovered that the productivity of labor fluctuates greatly by area and so does machine productivity because of different

Management back in Houston needs up

to date information about productivity on the job in order to make decisions and transmit them to the men on the spot.

For example, it is vitally important to keep abreast of all piping activity. "Piping is half the cost of any petroleum or petrochemical building project," Fronk said, "If you keep on top of the piping, you're on top of the job."

Litwin has managed to do that on the job for Energy Co. of Alaska at North Pole by installing a key-diskette communications system made by Data 100 Corp. of

Fronk said the system has enabled it to process four times as much data on the job and do it in 48 hours, compared with up to three weeks for older computer systems.

Litwin used to have the coded data from remote construction sites as far away as St.

Croix in the Virgin Islands or Russia sent to its Houston office, then key-punched and transmitted to United Computing Sys-

tem at Kansas City for processing.

The new Data 100 Model 77 system allows a lot of the essential work to be done right on the job in North Pole with the aid of a 256-character cathode ray tube before

the data goes to Houston. Then it gets to Kansas City within three or four hours and is processed and the results are sent to North Pole and back to

"We know the data is virtually error-free when we first get it under the new system," Fronk said — "There aren't any unpleasant surprises three weeks later as

And that, he said, means "neither Lit-win nor the client is left out in the cold."

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## Young engineers receive awards

Twenty-seven recent high school graduates were singled out for awards in August at the close of the 6th Engineering Concepts Institute (ECI) of Prairie View A&M Univer-

Those honored were among about 160 enrolled in the program designed to give early exposure to en-gineering as a career and the course work required. Funding this year's ECI were Aluminum Co. America, Bechtel Corp., Bell. Laboratories, Dow Chemical, Ex-xon, General Electric Foundation, Mobil Oil and Xerox Corp.

Selected as outstanding students in engineering communications were Harry Duffy of Crosby High School, Shirley Holland of Hempstead High, Samuel Kempt of Houston Kashmere, Annette Moore and Debbie Cosby of Houston Yates, and Melanie Ridley of Dennsbury High in Fairless Hills, Pa.

Honored in engineering graphics were Keith Mouton of Beaumont Hempstead High, James Williams and Michael Mosley of Hempstead, LaShon Mitchell and Oliver Wool-dridge of Houston Worthing, and John R. Williams of Leto High in Tampa, Fla.

Awards in engineering concepts went to Robert Montgomery of Houston Kashmere, Keith Smith of Baytown Sterling, Alane Mavis of Houston Smiley, Michael Collins of Crosby, Walter Swindell of Dallas Carter and Ronald Robinson of McCall High in Tallulah, La.

Engineering mathematics laurels were received by Smith, Cosby and Swindell, plus Michael Lightfoot of Fort Worth Dunbar, Earnetta Moore of San Antonio Houston, Byron Lewis of Houston Kashmere, Rosalind Blacknell and Chiquita Davis of Houston Jones, and Brenda Sherrod of Cleveland High in Buf-falo, N.Y.

## **Funds** supplied for community agency training

Nationwide training of state education agency personnel in com-munity education has again been funded by Texas A&M University.

Dr. Robert I. Berridge said seminars are planned in Washington, McAllen, Indianapolis and Salt Lake City. They will be conducted by Texas A&M's Center for Community Education in October and January, April and June,

Federal funding of \$77,884 from the U.S. Office of Education (USOE) supports the program. It will involve state community educa-tion directors from all 50 states. State grants will fund some directors' participation. Directors from non-funded states will be supported through the Texas A&M Center

budget.

Berridge directs the Texas A&M center and heads the USOE grant program assisted by Mike Killian.

The 1976 series of seminars in Kansas City, Denver, Atlanta and Seattle was conducted under a \$70,080 USOE grant.

## Many veterans at A&M despite drop nationwide

The number of veterans attending Texas A&M University on the GI Bill continues to run about 1,200 annually, a sharp contrast to large drops reported nationwide, said campus VA officials.

The Veterans Administration stated last week that the November, 1976 enrollment figure was considerably lower than the figures for November, 1975 because the 10-year eligibility period had just run out for 3.6 million veterans in the post-Korean and early Vietnam post-Korean and early Vietnam

period.
Texas A&M liaison spokesmen, however, noted that the number of veterans attending on GI Bill benefits remains about the same as in the past - 1,200 in the long terms and 650-700 for the summer sessions. It remains to be seen if the number will significantly change this fall, they added.

In the 33-year life span of the GI Bill school plan, nearly 17 million veterans have been educated since World War II. Even with the smaller enrollment figures for last fall, said the VA, about 1.2 million per-sons were using GI Bill benefits at that time.