REDIFFUSION COMPUTERS PROVE THEIR POINT WITH LOW COST OCR MIXED-MEDIA

NORWEB, one of the largest utilities in the UK, has installed two Rediffusion mixed-media (OCR) Key-to-disk systems, each duplexed to fast document and page readers.

The document readers are used primarily for meter reading sheets combining print produced by the ICL 2900 series mainframe, and handprint from meter readers. Some 12,000 of these documents are processed hourly, the data being communicated by ICL CO3 communications to the mainframe.

NORWEB, experienced OCR users for over 15 years, formerly used Scan-Optics OCR readers. The advantages of mixed-media (OCR) Key-to-disk compared to standalone OCR will mean day earlier billing to customers, saving around £200,000 pa over and above the operational saving that the new systems offer.

Picture shows the two Rediffusion mixed-media (OCR) Key-to-disk duplexed systems each with fast document and page readers which are installed at NORWEB, Manchester.

Responsible for Rediffusion mixed-media (OCR) Key-to-disk systems at NORWEB are l to r Graham Sencicle — computer services manager and Paul Wooding — operations manager.

The reconciliation of the tear off portion of the bills after payment is made, is the second application on the document readers, although this is less time critical.

The page readers handle larger sizes of paper and the two major applications are the time critical payroll, and sales analysis.

The British Railways Board has ordered an R2865 document reader based mixed-media (OCR) Key-to-disk system.

The equipment will be installed in the treasurer's offices at 50 Liverpool Street, London. The application will be for the reconciliation of invoices and banking of cheques for credit payments made to BR. The value of these can be in excess of £12 million per week. Other applications connected with banking and treasury are expected to follow.

BR currently use eight other Rediffusion mixed-media systems, all R550s. This represents the first of the new latest generation of mixed-media systems to be ordered by the board.

The Co operative Wholesale Society Ltd, has ordered two Rediffusion R2864 page readers as addons to their recently installed R2805 data entry system.

Previously, the society used standalone Cognitronics System 70s. The move to a mixed-media (OCR) Key-to-disk system offers a far more efficient data flow through the data preparation department.

David Ellison, the bureaux services manager, said that the mixed-media concept was the main reason for his decision to change from the ICL key edit systems, currently being phased out.