

Generator for Bethel Court

The RCA Corporation announced that it has launched its first domestic communications satellite on Friday, Dec. 12, 1975, from Cape Canaveral, Fla.

The decision to go ahead with the launch on schedule follows a ruling by the Federal Communications Commission that RCA's satellite could occupy the 119 degrees orbital location which is an operating position for serving Alaska and the other 49 states.

The RCA satellite has been specifically designed for Alaska services and is urgently required for expanded voice, record and

video services.

These services include critical satellite operations for Alaska Pipeline communications, to relieve capacity constraints on the obsolete White Alice facilities, to initiate telephone and public health services with the first 20 new small village earth stations under construction, and also with 80 other small earth stations to follow in Alaska.

In a letter to the commission, Howard R. Hawkins, president, RCA Communications, said the placement of RCA's high capacity satellite into orbital operation as soon as practicable in early 1976 "will

provide the greatest assurance that adequate space segment capacity will become available promptly to provide the satellite communications services which are required for the people of Alaska and also to serve the contiguous states."

Hawkins said that RCA has been "encouraged by the commission's final authorization and by other recent developments. There are also overriding considerations in the public interest.

"Accordingly, we have concluded that RCA Flight 1 satellite should be launched on schedule on Dec. 12 and placed into orbital operations for authorized services."

The RCA Satcom I satellite will be a 24-channel spacecraft capable of simultaneously

(continued on page 12)

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(Continued from Page 9)

handling 24,000 one-way telephone messages or 24 color television programs.

It will be put into orbit by an upgraded Thor Delta 2914 launch vehicle, designated the 3914, making the RCA Satcom system the most cost-effective announced to date.

RCA Alaska Communications, Inc., the authorized long lines carrier for Alaska, and RCA Global Communications, Inc., a leading international voice/record carrier, inaugurated the nation's first domestic communications satellite system in December 1973 using leased transponders on existing communications satellites.

The launch of the RCA Satcom I satellite will permit a rapid expansion of communications services throughout the 50 states.