

enable them to translate from Japanese to Chinese.

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### **XLT from Socatra**

The Canadian translation and Machine Translation development company Socatra (acronym for Société canadienne de traduction assistée), which has been working on MT since 1981, has now launched what it calls its *XLT System*.

The system is the brainchild of Socatra's founder and president, *Claude Richard*, who was born in France and emigrated to Canada in the 1960s. He took a degree in electrical engineering, specialising in computer science and communications, at the Ecole polytechnique de Montréal.

The XLT system, which at present is available only in the language pair English to French, is described as being "based upon a purely mathematical model of the psycho-linguistic structures of the source language," "fully recurrent and re-entrant", and as using many of the latest developments in artificial intelligence, such as fuzzy logic. An output of 250,000 words an hour is claimed. The system's general dictionary is said to contain more than 40,000 roots with more than 200,000 variations. The user can update and edit the general dictionary or add his own specialised glossaries.

The raw text produced by the XLT System is said to be equivalent to a first "rough draft" translation, "technically correct but which needs to be reviewed and corrected to achieve its final form".

It is expected that a French to English capability will be available shortly, and work on other languages, such as Italian and German, is under development. The system will probably be on show at the Paris Salon international de l'informatique et de la bureautique (COMDEX-Europe) in the spring of 1991.

Socatra are contemplating selling access to their system by means of a

microchip card. Cards will be sold in amounts of 100,000 to 1 million words. Once the card's reserve is depleted (there is automatic notification before this happens) the user buys a new card.

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### **Globalink English to German**

Globalink Translation System (GTS) have released their English to German module, and expect shortly to have their first Mandarin Chinese model available.

GTS is now available in the language pairs French, German, Spanish and Russian to English, and English to French, German and Spanish. In addition to Chinese, work is proceeding on modules involving Hindi, Italian, Portuguese and Arabic.

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### **Translator creates own MT system**

Yet another Canadian system has been announced. This is called *Le Routier*, translates from French to English and English to French, and runs on a Macintosh SE/30 using Advanced AI Systems Prolog version M1.15. Its developer is translator *Victor Loewen*, of Nepean in Ontario, and is based on another MT system called *Ordinotrad*, which was the basis of Mr Loewen's MA thesis at the University of Ottawa.

Mr Loewen began developing the system, which he sees primarily as a translator aid, in February 1989, and by April that year had a functional tool, to do work for a major Canadian corporation requiring mainly bilingual itineraries for drivers and delivery personnel. The high volume of text, and the limited sentence structures, of this particular type of text were a factor in the development of the system.

The system is described in greater detail in the proceedings of the conference of the Canadian Information Processing Society, held in Ottawa in May 1990, available from CIPS, 5th Floor, 243 College Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5T 2Y1.

### **Systran introduce personal dictionary**

The latest feature added to the Systran machine translation system by Gachot, the French company which develops the system in the private sector, is that of a personal user's dictionary.

This dictionary enables each user to enter up to 1000 words in a dictionary reserved for his own personal use. This dictionary operates every time the number of the customer appears for Systran, and its terms take precedence over Systran general dictionary terminology.

The personal dictionary is an offshoot of another Systran development providing for the automatic coding and entering of terms in the languages French, German, Spanish and English, which will speed up the process of dictionary enlargement, previously a time-consuming manual operation, considerably.

Gachot are also in the process of creating five new pairs of languages for Systran: English to Dutch, English to Danish, English to Swedish, English to Norwegian, and English to Finnish. The language pairs English to Chinese and Chinese to English are already being prepared, and in 1991 Gachot hope to use the Japanese source language analysis they already have to