

# PRIVATE INDUSTRY TAKES UP AFP DEVELOPMENT

**T**WO years development work by AFP technical staff in Canberra has paid off with a licensing agreement with private enterprise.

The manufacturing group, British Aerospace, will be making the AFP's Standard Telephone Activity Recorder, or STARS, for sale within Australia.

"The licensing agreement limits sales within Australia," Chief Inspector Owen Heness (Electronic Services) said, "but British Aerospace could apply to the Commissioner to sell the device overseas.

The device was developed mainly by three men: Les Laundon (Senior Technical Officer Grade 2), Alan Farnell (STO Grade 1), and Don Evans (STO Grade 2). During the later stages four other officers from the Operational Support Section helped with the finishing touches and the commissioning. They are Bob Henson, Allan Sholtez, John Klason and Gavin Bugg.

"We sent the British Aerospace engineers away fairly well impressed," Les Laundon said. "They have big back-up in the form of professional manufacturing techniques but they said there were only a couple of minor things with our design that they'd change so we didn't do too badly!"




*Don Evans (left), Alan Farnell and Les Laundon with a model of the AFP's Standard Telephone Activity Recorder (STARS).*

Les explained the AFP's "boffins" decided to develop STARS because of problems with existing equipment designed overseas. "It was becoming increasingly difficult to maintain and in any case the technology was fairly old and no off-the-shelf replacement equipment was available in Australia.

"Alan Farnell did 99 percent of the software work and Evans — who's now with the Telecommunication Interception Division — was the main person behind the hardware development and I did the co-ordination. Allan Sholtez was involved in the work on the ancillary equipment."

STARS became operational with the AFP in April last year.

"The system gives us a large degree of flexibility because we can change the software to suit current needs. STARS is very flexible and we can add or delete features as necessary. It is pre-programmed which is another advantage. Overseas-designed systems generally have keyboards which are prone to operator error." 



*Chief Inspector Owen Heness (left) with Mr Alf Jaugietis, Marketing Executive, British Aerospace, and Mr Trevor Pobje, Executive Officer (Review and Staff Management) at the signing of the licensing agreement.*