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Princeton RCA Produces 'Tiros' Weather Satellite Sends Clear Pictures

By STANDISH F. MEDINA JR.

The "Tiros" weather satellite, which was launched last Thursday, was designed and produced by the nearby Route One RCA division of Astro-Electronic Products.

Both the tremendously successful satellite and its ground complex were constructed by the Mercer County corporation. The clear pictures transmitted back to earth by the satellite have exceeded the hopes of all the scientists connected with the project.

The satellite comprises perhaps the most elaborate electronics package yet sent into orbit around the earth, containing miniature television cameras, video tape recorders, solar cell and rechargeable battery and an array of control equipment.

The 270-pound weather station is linked to an extensive ground network of tracking and receiving stations, data-processing systems and programming centers. The unified system gathers and analyzes data on cloud formation in the earth's atmosphere.

Primary receiving stations for the satellite are at nearby Fort Monmouth and at Kaena Point, Hawaii. Of the two smaller, backup stations, one is in Princeton at the main RCA plant.

The name Tiros is derived from the initial letters of words describing the project: Television Infra-Red Observation Satellite.

Vital Step

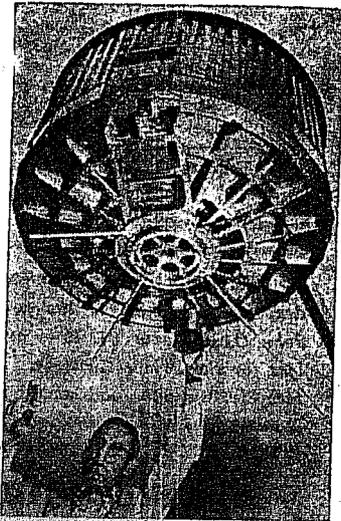
The launching of the satellite is essentially a vital experimental

step on the way to practical advances according to Sidney Sternberg, Chief Engineer in charge of the project.

Other companies in the Princeton area working on space projects include General Devices, Inc., which was awarded a contract for work on the Titan ICBM missile; the Applied Science Corporation; Curtiss-Wright Division of Princeton and the Food Machinery and Chemical Corporation, whose Princeton division produced the third stage of the Vanguard rocket.

50 Firms

The successful Tiros launching again emphasized Princeton's role as the location for the nation's foremost research projects. Most



WEATHER SATELLITE: Tiros, shot into orbit Friday, is shown during pre-flight Princeton test.

of the research laboratories involved in such research are generally new to the area, too.

More than 50 firms dealing with research presently are located in or near Princeton in Mercer County.

RCA moved in in 1942 following the Gallup Poll in 1935. Western Electric and a host of other large research firms have followed within the last few years.

Space research is constantly being carried on at Forrestal.