Systran downsizes

Systran will soon begin to convert its entire La Jolla, California operation from the company's mainframe computer to independently linked desktop platforms. For the past 25 years, Systran linguists and translators have depended on the IBM 370 series mainframe computer for all software development and maintenance.

By March of 1994, most linguistic development will be carried out on an IBM model PS/2 translation workstation. The workstation is equipped with an IBM P/370/A emulator board and the OS/2 v. 2.1 operating system. The PS/2 will act as server to a network of high powered 486 PC terminals. After a year of vigorous product testing, Systran has signed on with IBM as an OEM distributor for the P/370/A emulator board.

Systran president *Denis Gachot* is pleased at the testing results. The emulator-equipped PS/2 outperforms the current larger and more expensive mainframe by a factor of 2 to 1.

The US Air Force has awarded a continuation of last year's software conversion contract. A portion of the latest seven-figure contract will fund Systran's ongoing C conversion of its machine translation capability. With the C software versions, translations will operate on desktop computers, such as a 486 PC or UNIX Workstation.

Owing to Systran's large vocabulary-based translation system, translations have until now been restricted to mainframe computers and hence not immediately accessible by smaller companies unable to afford such expensive equipment. The Systran *Express* service permits limited access to the mainframe system from a PC and modem, but now clients will be free of telecommunication delays and formatting limitations. The C-conversion contract benefits both the US Government and Systran. By funding development, the government can operate the new C-based software on any of its estimated millions of government-based desktop computers and UNIX workstations. At the same time, Systran can continue to offer enhanced versions of its software for the benefit of its expanding customer base.