

# GEC REVIEW

incorporating THE GEC JOURNAL OF TECHNOLOGY

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### Editorial

1999 is proving to be a defining year for GEC. In January the Company announced that it had reached agreement with British Aerospace (BAe) on the principal terms of a proposed reconstruction involving the separation from GEC of its defence electronics business, Marconi Electronic Systems (MES), and the merger of MES with BAe.

In April, GEC completed the purchase of RELTEC Corporation of Cleveland, Ohio. RELTEC is a leader in the design, manufacture and sale of telecommunications network products, including the high growth market for Access products in the USA. Access products offer broadband solutions to telecommunications companies faced with network capacity constraints resulting from the dramatic growth in data, video and voice traffic over the local loop – the 'last mile' connection to residential and business subscribers.

Also in April GEC agreed to acquire FORE Systems, Inc. of Pittsburgh, PA. FORE Systems is a leading global supplier of high performance Internet switching equipment based on a 'best-in-class' portfolio of products featuring Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM), Internet Protocol (IP), Gigabit Ethernet and Firewall switching technologies. These systems are used in the backbone of some of the largest enterprise and Internet service provider networks in the world. GEC is therefore moving strongly towards becoming a leading player in the global communications equipment market.

Information is being communicated, both locally and internationally, at an ever-increasing rate. GEC Review, in common with many other comparable journals, has become available electronically and, whilst the move away from the printed page is not universally acclaimed, the web-published information is undoubtedly accessible to a far wider audience – notably those at the heart of the burgeoning communications industry, the new focus of GEC's attention.

Reflecting these changes, GEC's technical endeavours will no longer be formally published under the banner of 'GEC Review', so this is our final issue. In future, these activities will appear solely but prominently on our website, facilitating the widespread dissemination of and search for information. The production of customer-oriented 'themed' publications in print will also become a feature of our new approach.

We thank all our established readers for their interest and feedback over the years and welcome our new audience to the re-focused GEC, fit for the challenges of the new millennium.

The Editors

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