

FOR RELEASE:

Immediate

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DISTILLATION TOWER AT COMPUTER SITE: Only a few feet away from a computer room, International Business Machines Corporation has built a 24-foot distillation tower at its San Jose, Calif., facility. The computer, seen through the window, is an IBM 1800 data acquisition and control system capable of controlling complex industrial processes ranging from oil refining to glass-making.

IBM 1800 systems are designed and produced at San Jose. This tower, which incorporates a full range of industrial process functions, was erected so that company researchers and customers would have a realistic laboratory for developing advanced digital computer control applications and techniques.

Sensing devices are strategically located in the tower to monitor such variables as temperatures, pressures and flow-rates. They transmit an up-to-the-second profile of the process to the 1800 system.

The computer compares this information instantly with values set by the operators. Should any adjustments become necessary to keep the process at peak efficiency, the computer automatically transmits appropriate commands that will open or close valves, cause temperatures to rise or fall, or flow-rates to change.

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