Last year the Langley vehicle was comparison-tested on seven different road surfaces at the Texas Transportation Institute. Results exceeded expectations. Accuracy of this new car in measuring highway skid resistance correlated almost exactly with that of a fully equipped test van provided by the Federal Highway Administration.

Emergency Lighting

A lighting system originally developed for NASA’s Apollo and Skylab manned spacecraft resulted in an industrial spinoff and creation of a whole new company to produce and market the product line. The company is UDEC Corp., Waltham, Mass.

UDEC’s “Multi-Mode” electronic lighting systems are designed for plant emergency and supplementary use, such as night lighting, “always-on” stairwell lights and illuminated exit signs. Their advantages stem from the qualities demanded for spacecraft installation: extremely high light output with very low energy drain, compactness, light weight, and high reliability.

The Multi-Mode system includes long-life fluorescent lamps operated by electronic circuitry, a sealed battery that needs no maintenance for 10 years, and a solid-state battery charger. A typical emergency installation consists of a master module with battery and an eight watt lamp, together with four remote “Satellite” modules powered by the master’s battery. This installation can automatically supply illumination sufficient to read a newspaper in any part of a 20,000 square foot plant, insuring employee safety in the event of a main power blackout.

As a night lighting system for maintenance or security, UDEC fixtures can bypass the battery and operate on normal current at a fraction of the energy demand of conventional night lighting. Industrial customers have realized savings of better than ninety percent with UDEC night lights. UDEC started as a basement industry in 1972 but the company has already sold more than 1,000 lighting systems to building operators.
Exits of Boston's Exeter Street Theater are lighted by Multi-Mode electronic lights, commercial spinoffs from a lighting system developed for NASA's Apollo and Skylab manned spacecraft. Advantages of Multi-Mode lights stem from the qualities demanded for spacecraft use: high light output with low energy drain, compactness, light weight and high reliability.