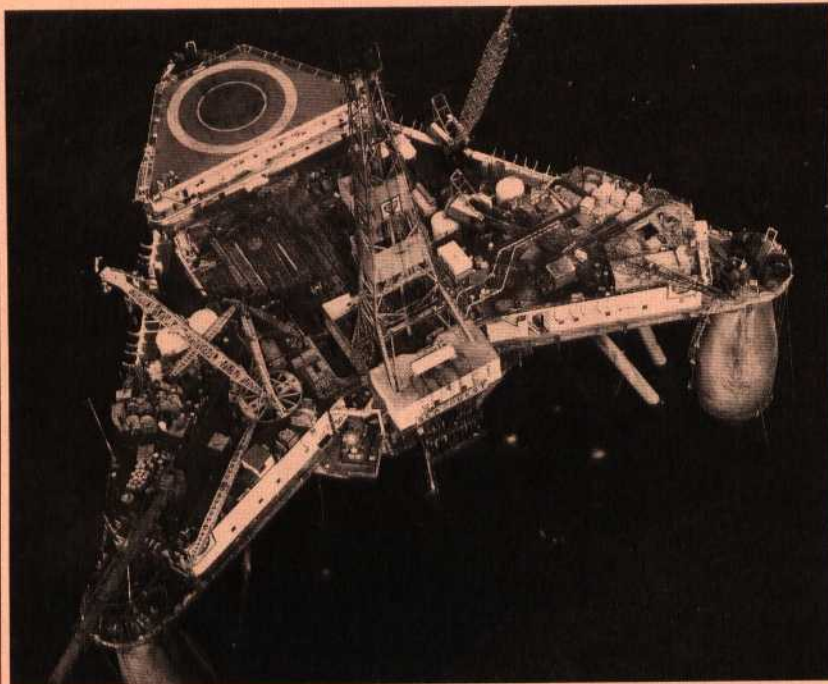




## FINANCIAL MICROTIMES



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## STRIKING OIL

Dallas is a business game that puts you at the head of your own oil company. Starting out with \$100 million in cash, you have to try and accumulate \$200 million in order to take over your biggest rival — Euing Associates. (The misspelling of the name from the popular television series is intentional.)

On the screen is a map of Texas, and as the game progresses you have the chance to gain 'concessions' in each of the squares. To win the concession you have to put in a successful bid, but once you have made one you can then drill a test well to search for oil. If oil

is discovered in your field, you then set up a drilling rig and a production facility, and finally a pipeline.

If you overcommit yourself — by buying up too many concessions before you have any oil revenue coming in, for example — then you might have to go to the bank for a loan, and then you start paying interest. If the loan exceeds \$20 million, then you risk being taken over by Euing Associates.

This program is available from Cases Computer Simulations for a range of home micros, including the BBC Micro, Spectrum, Oric and Electron.

## HIGH FINANCE

In this game you are chairman of L-AIR, a private airline with capital of £3 million at the beginning of the game. Within seven years, you must increase your assets to £30 million, at which point you can take over British Airways and win the game.

At the beginning of each financial year you need to decide how many aircraft to operate, using forecasts that predict the number of passengers. Initially, you do not have enough money to buy an aeroplane — they cost £10 million each — so you have to rent them. In more profitable years you will need to decide whether it is better to hire or buy aircraft, and this depends on both charter rates and loan interest rates.

You also have to decide on the level of manning and maintenance for your aircraft. If it's too low then you may not have enough staff or planes and some flights might have to be

cancelled. If it is too high, you will waste money.

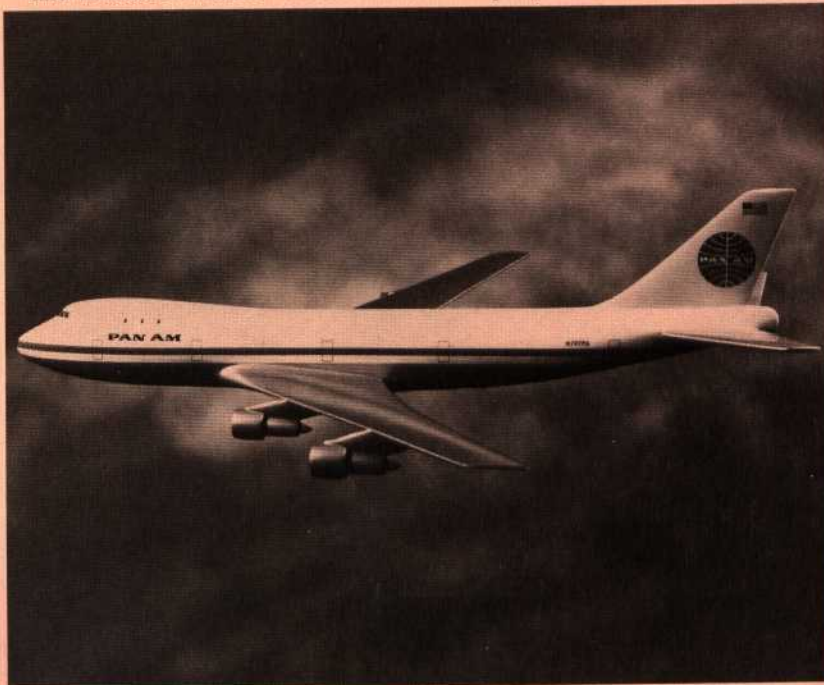
Occasionally a 'ticker tape' crosses the screen containing various telex messages. For example, OPEC might have increased the price of oil — and therefore aviation

fuel — or you might have been granted a licence for a new air route.

At the end of the year a balance sheet gives L-AIR's overall performance and a chairman's statement on how successful the company

has been. If you lose £10 million in the first year, then the company is liquidated.

Airline is available for the Spectrum, Oric, Electron and BBC Micro from Cases Computer Simulations.



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