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Memorandum L-153

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Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge 39, Massachusetts

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Auth: <u>DRB</u>
By: <u>DRB</u>
Date: <u>3-15-60</u>

SUBJECT: GROUP LEADERS' MEETING, June 7, 1954

To: Group Leaders

From: David R. Brown

Date: June 7, 1954

Present: R. R. Everett, D. R. Brown, S. H. Dodd, A. P. Kromer,
J. C. Proctor, N. H. Taylor, C. R. Wieser, and P. Youts

- Agenda:
1. Concurrence on Production FSQ-7's
 2. Failure of FSQ-7 Primary Power
 3. S. E. Desjardins
 4. Clearance for IBM Visits
 5. Air Force Meeting on FSQ-7 Prototype Program
 6. Quality Control of FSQ-7 Prototypes
 7. Cost of Duplex Combat Operation Center
 8. Display Consoles
 9. Visit to General Ceramics and IBM
 10. IBM Engineering for Duplex Central

1. Concurrence on Production FSQ-7's

S. H. Dodd discussed the proposed MIT concurrence procedure with M. M. Astrahan, R. Crago, and A. Raymond in Poughkeepsie on June 3. MIT is requesting that MIT concur on mechanical-design, component, and basic-circuit specifications and on production releases. M. Astrahan and R. Crago do not favor the MIT proposal. The possibility that ADES might insist on concurrence was not discussed. S. H. Dodd will call C. Lynch and make arrangements to come to some agreement with him regarding the concurrence procedure.

2. Failure of FSQ-7 Primary Power

A memorandum written by J. J. Gano on the time lost due to a primary power failure assumes that if heater power is lost for five seconds, the circuits can be functioning five seconds after heater power is reapplied. Additional studies now indicate that approximately 30 seconds are required to bring the cathode up to temperature so that plate current can be drawn. H. B. Frost or Saul Twicken will make additional measurements, consulting with P. Youts. Curves of "off" time and "on" time will be prepared as soon as possible.

3. S. E. Desjardins

S. E. Desjardins has received a substantial offer from Hughes Research and Development Laboratories. R. R. Everett will find out what salary he will receive after July 1 so that this information can be relayed to S. E. Desjardins.

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4. Clearance for IBM Visits

Extended clearance for a number of Lincoln Laboratory staff members has been sent to the IBM office in Endicott.

Clearance and sign-in procedures for IBM visitors to Division 6 should be reviewed. Arrangements should be made so that IBM representatives will not be delayed in being issued badges and will not require escorts in the Lexington Laboratory after Division 6 moves to Lexington.

5. Air Force Meeting on FSQ-7 Prototype Program

The most-recent monthly AMC meeting to review the status of the FSQ-7 prototype program was held in Poughkeepsie on June 3. J. Hanton reviewed the summary time schedule showing that IBM is now approximately six weeks behind schedule. One month ago IBM was four weeks behind schedule and two months ago IBM was two weeks behind schedule. F. McElwain, IBM's manager of defence engineering, stated that at the next meeting IBM would inform the Air Force whether or not it would make the November 15, 1954, delivery date and the July, 1955, operational-status date.

In the meantime, R. R. Everett, S. H. Dodd, and N. H. Taylor will go over the IBM time schedules to more exactly determine the status of the work.

Air Force approval of the contract for construction of Building F is expected in Lexington on June 7.

J. Zollinger and T. A. Burke have requested an additional two-and-a-half million dollars from the Air Force for prototype construction.

ADES has asked for a clarification of Lincoln's position with respect to the number of telephone lines required in the transition system. A joint Division 2-Division 6 committee is working on a revised estimate which will be forwarded to ADES.

6. Quality Control of FSQ-7 Prototypes

Representatives of IBM, AFCRC, and the Lincoln Laboratory will meet in Poughkeepsie with the Air Force inspector on June 11 to discuss the wording of the portion of the IBM contract concerned with quality control of FSQ-7 prototypes. N. H. Taylor may represent MIT.

7. Cost of Duplex Combat Operation Center

The ADC has asked MIT to estimate the cost of a duplex combat operation center.

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8. Display Consoles

R. R. Everett and N. H. Taylor spent June 4 in Endicott to review display-console development. An adequate job is being done. Concurrence on the display consoles is scheduled for June 16. R. Mork was asked to take a greater part in component and tube testing. Final test of the display console may be carried out in Lexington, requiring space for the consoles, test equipment, tubes, personnel, etc. N. H. Taylor will see N. Edwards to make arrangements for display-console testing.

9. Visit to General Ceramics and IBM

W. M. Wittenberg, W. Stroh, A. Heckel, and E. A. Vinciguerra of IBM and D. R. Brown met at General Ceramics on June 2 to discuss procurement of ferrite memory cores. General Ceramics will supply all cores needed between now and approximately October 1, an additional 155,000 cores required for the fourth prototype memory bank. After that, General Ceramics proposes three alternate plans: (1) for General Ceramics to supply 100 percent of future needs, (2) for General Ceramics to supply 75 percent of future needs, and (3) for General Ceramics to supply 50 percent of future needs. General Ceramics asks IBM to commit itself to one of these plans for the next six months' period. IBM has agreed to give General Ceramics an indication of its attitude toward the proposal by July 1 and to take a definite action by August 1. The 155,000 cores required for the fourth prototype memory bank will be obtained by increasing the quantity on the existing purchase order. The formal General Ceramics' proposal will be sent to R. Kelley.

A joint MIT-IBM group is developing a simplified ferrite-memory-core testing procedure designed to select the same cores as the present test procedure but to require less time and test equipment. This new specification is expected to be ready by September 1, 1954. MIT concurrence on the specification for production memory cores is scheduled for June 14, 1954. A meeting with H. D. Ross and C. Lynch is being arranged to discuss the conflicts in the two time schedules.

One of the commercial IBM projects has just purchased 400,000 grade B cores from General Ceramics at 8 cents each compared with approximately 25 cents each paid for cores for Project High. The higher price of the Project High cores is due to the tighter tolerances specified by Project High. Samples of the 400,000 8-cent cores will be tested by Project High to determine how nearly alike the two types of cores are. If the two types of cores are the same, IBM will ask General Ceramics for further explanation. D. R. Brown discussed this matter with J. M. Coombs, F. McElwain, R. L. Palmer and W. Maier in Poughkeepsie on June 3.

10. IBM Engineering for Duplex Central

According to the Air Force contracting officer, money is available for IBM to carry out engineering for the duplex central.

DRB/jk

cc: W. K. Lindvill, A. P. Kromer

Signed

David R. Brown

D. R. Brown, Secretary

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