

Memorandum 6L-214

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PLB Ba p 44

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:	
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Subject: GROUP LEADERS' MINUTES - August 1, 1955
 To: Group Leaders and Associate Group Leaders
 From: C. W. Farr
 Date: August 2, 1955

Present: J. W. Forrester, J. Arnov, D. R. Brown, S. H. Dodd, C. W. Farr,
 D. R. Israel, J. F. Jacobs, B. E. Morris, Jr., W. H. Taylor,
 C. R. Wieser

- Agenda: 1. Memory core specifications
 2. Space
 3. Test program
 4. Personnel recruiting requirements

1. Memory core specifications

D. R. Brown discussed IBM's recent proposal to tighten the specification on cores and advised that IBM has been requested to finish the current program of core experiments before changing specifications. At present there are two suppliers of cores namely IBM and General Ceramics. General Ceramics over a two year period has never held up our program for failure to make a delivery of cores; IBM is more recently in the field.

J. W. Forrester asked Brown to look up a letter from Forrester to McElwain of IBM regarding sources of supply of cores.

Brown says that General Ceramics expects a patent to be issued soon and plans to approach alleged infringers for royalty.

Brown said that IBM has come to regard MIT as a partisan champion of General Ceramics whereas our true function has been to use our influence to insure two sources of core supply and to maintain core quality consistent with the desired memory ~~cycle~~ cycle.

Forrester suggested that Brown prepare a statement of conditions under which MIT would be willing to agree to a single source of supply of cores; tentatively he said we would need two sources until it had been demonstrated that a single source would be adequate from the standpoint of dependable production over a period of 5 to 6 months, a stock pile of cores to insure against delays and of course adequate quality specifications.

2. Space

H. H. Taylor raised the question concerning the housing of new recruits due to arrive this month.

D. R. Brown has started substituting single for double pedestal desks and crowding ~~into~~ ~~the~~ ~~main~~ ~~frame~~ (two men to a 9' x 9' module).

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Page 2 of 2

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Taylor said space would get critical in September if consoles arrive as promised and push people out of building F; Taylor has fortified people in this category.

Farr was asked to check WE-ADES via phone regarding status of the Murphy Hospital negotiation.

Farr was asked to see that J. C. Proctor pick up the space problem on return from vacation and programs individual people and space in line with our needs and so report to Forrester.

3. Test program

C. R. Wieser reviewed the problem of defining the objectives of the test program and implementing the program with adequate manpower properly organized. He referred to memorandum 6L-212 summarizing the current situation.

J. W. Forrester commented that three problems exist:

- a. The test program to satisfy the equipment builders that the equipment will work adequately
- b. A program to anticipate and discover trouble points in the equipment and system before they are encountered in operation
- c. The air proving ground function of measuring the performance of the equipment and system in air defense from the military viewpoint

The meeting adjourned to avoid delaying the SAGE System meeting; conclusive action was not decided upon and the problem was added to S. H. Dodd's list of "problem areas".

4. Personnel recruiting requirements

J. W. Forrester interpolated this item into one of the above problem discussions requesting that Group Leaders submit an up-to-date list of personnel recruiting requirements taking into account related terminations. H. H. Taylor reported that his current requirements have recently been submitted to R. R. Everett in Forrester's absence; D. R. Israel is preparing Group 61 requirements.

C. W. Farr

C. W. Farr
Secretary

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