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Memorandum M-2859

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By: R.R. Everett  
Date: 2-15-60

Division 6 - Lincoln Laboratory  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Cambridge 39, Massachusetts

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SUBJECT: GROUP 62 SECTION LEADERS MEETING - JUNE 7, 1954

To: Division 6 Group Leaders; Group 62 Staff Members

From: P. J. Gray

Date: June 8, 1954

Abstract: The contract for construction of Building F started June 7th. A study group is being set up to investigate a smaller and faster computer for air defense at advanced locations. IBM is now back scheduled an average of six weeks on XD-1.

1. Display

It is planned to hold a conference next week to obtain EDO-SO concurrence on the design of the display console. Taylor and others may make a West Coast trip late this month with regard to administrative problems concerning the Charactron and Typotron tubes.

Work is continuing on display specifications. Preliminary copies will be available for comments about the end of this week. June 17th has tentatively been set for the concurrence meeting.

2. Building F Status

Final construction approval for Building F was received this past week. The contractor has received a letter authorizing him to proceed with construction, as of June 7th. Therefore, the basement area should be ready for occupancy within 60 days (August 7th). The first floor 30 days later and the second floor 15 days after the first floor. All work by the contractor is to be completed within 150 days (November 7th).

3. System Drawings

System drawings preparation is continuing with most of the central computer block schematics now available except for the maintenance console, marginal checking, power distribution, and memory. Pertinent drawings concerning the drum system have been received from IBM. Work has not as yet started on these however.

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4. MTC

MTC has been dismantled and the process of moving the machine to Lexington will start Wednesday and is to be completed by Saturday. No positive date for resumption of operation has been set. Late July is the current estimate.

5. Memory

The experimental 128 x 128 memory plane now has X and Y windings. Completion is expected in 2 weeks. The memory section will welcome any ideas concerning methods of construction of larger memories.

6. Long Range Plans

A small group is being constituted to study a smaller, faster computer of less capacity than the FSQ-7. Lincoln has been requested to study the feasibility of such a system, possibly air transportable, for air defense use in advanced locations. The objective of the study group will not be to redesign FSQ-7, but to direct efforts towards utilizing completely up-to-date circuitry and methods. Such things as a larger memory to eliminate a drum system and use of transistors and magnetic core circuitry are possibilities. In addition, as the work on FSQ-7 lightens, another study group is contemplated to work on advanced display system development.

It is to be emphasized that this is first round thinking and may undergo considerable revision as the FSQ-7 load lightens and additional manpower becomes available.

7. Prototype Status

At the monthly status meeting in Poughkeepsie last week IBM indicated that they were back scheduled on the various frames of XD-1 by an average of 6 weeks. Prior to the next monthly meeting IBM and MIT will make a re-evaluation of the validity of the November 15th delivery date of the central computer to Lexington and the July 1, 1955, operational date.

8. Approvals and Concurrence

The following items received Lincoln approval last week:

Arithmetic Element

Output Switch Decision

Single Shot Multivibrator

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D.C. Level Inverter Model A

Pulsed diode Circuits

D.C. Level Setter Model A

SIGNED

  
P. J. Gray

APPROVED

  
A. P. Kromer

PJG:mo

cc: J. W. Forrester  
R. R. Everett

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