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Memorandum 6L-167

Division 6 - Lincoln Laboratory
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Lexington 73, Massachusetts

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Auth:	DD254
By:	RLS
Date:	3-15-60

SUBJECT: GROUP LEADERS' MEETING, SEPTEMBER 27, 1954

To: Group Leaders

From: David R. Brown

Date: September 29, 1954

Present: J. W. Forrester, D. R. Brown, S. H. Dodd, A. P. Kromer,
J. C. Proctor, and N. H. Taylor

- Agenda:
1. Status of AN/FSQ-7 Program
 2. Status of Combat Center Design
 3. Liaison
 4. Maskers for Fine-Grain Data
 5. Advanced Development Program
 6. Space Survey

1. Status of AN/FSQ-7 Program

A 60-minute presentation on the status and problems of the FSQ-7 program is scheduled for the October 11 meeting at the Joint Project Office in New York for the Assistant Secretary for Air, Roger Lewis. Lincoln is preparing a list of problems which should be discussed at the meeting. This list will include such items as the programs for heavy radars, gap fillers, and Texas towers.

Parts of the central machine, FSQ-7(XD-1), are operating on the test floor in Poughkeepsie. That part of the machine now operating includes approximately 4,000 tubes. Approximately one half of the orders are functioning, but considerable refinement of circuit details will be required before smooth operation can be achieved. XD-1 is behind schedule and some of the more difficult parts of the job, especially problems associated with the terminal equipment, lie ahead of us. Unfortunately some IBM representatives in Poughkeepsie feel that their contract with the Air Force does not completely cover the job to be done. Although a cooperative attitude is found at most levels in IBM, some reluctance to expediting the program has been encountered in Poughkeepsie. N. H. Taylor has discussed this with C. F. McElwain in Endicott. J. W. Forrester would like specific instances of this failure to cooperate brought to his attention. It should not be necessary for MIT to ask IBM's New York office to send assistance to Poughkeepsie.

A file in the IBM Engineering Design Offices list desirable features or changes which have been proposed or might be incorporated in FSQ-7. This file should have more importance. Proposals or advisors should be

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entered in the file in a more formal way and with rather wide distribution. The proposal itself should include a time table of possible following events. It would initiate the consideration of a design change. This initiation is MIT's responsibility.

Two proposals in the file which are receiving attention are a new plug for the plug-in unit and redesign of the maintenance console.

A list of the titles of proposals in the file at the present time should be submitted to J. W. Forrester, together with a plan for action.

A meeting will be held in Foughkeepsie on September 29 with representatives of the Air Force, MIT, IBM, and ADES to discuss modulator and demodulator design. AFCRC's proposal to use the Lincoln Laboratory design will not be brought forward.

2. Status of Combat Center Design

Western Electric wants a contract to start design of the first combat center in November. They will need information from us in October. J. W. Forrester has discussed the design with W. H. Ayer who will prepare a proposal. The proposal for the design of the combat center will be discussed with ADC before it is released to Western Electric.

3. Liaison

Even though J. A. Arnow feels he is doing little good as our representative at the Joint Project Office, Colonel Osgood has indicated that he would like him to continue to represent us there and he believes that Arnow will be more valuable in the future.

An engineer from the New England Telephone and Telegraph Company will be transferred here to act as representative for the Western Electric Company. He will be transferred in the latter part of October.

4. Maskers for Fine-Grain Data

Engineers at IBM working on a design release for production machines have asked what priority should be assigned to the design of the masker for the fine-grain data system. The existing schedule calls for the initiation of design now, so that prototype maskers can be delivered in July 1955. IBM cannot start this design for another six months without delaying some other part of the FSQ-7 program. A proposed six months' delay would mean that the first production maskers would come three months after the first two sectors go into operation.

In this case the delay can be accepted. Similar questions can be expected to arise in the future.

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5. Advanced Development Program

A proposal has been advanced to put most of Division 6 advanced development into Group 63. This would include N. Daggett's present activity and possibly some expansion of D. J. Eckl's section. The advanced development program centered in Group 63 would maintain close liaison with related work in Group 35, W. N. Papian's section, C. L. Corderman's section, the Building 10 Research Assistants, and IBM's advanced development program.

N. Edwards at IBM has asked us what MIT's attitude toward advanced development at Project High will be. We sympathize with the necessity for IBM engineers to use their talents in a creative way, but feel that many challenging problems and urgent needs of the prototype and duplex central programs must have highest priority.

D. R. Brown will evaluate the research on ferrites being done by L. P. Hunter's group for Project High.

6. Space Survey

A final date should be established for the Division 6 space review. Temporary arrangements are becoming more uncomfortable and difficult to arrange.

Probably no conclusions can be reached before the end of October.

Signed

David R. Brown

David R. Brown
Secretary

DFB/jk

cc: W. K. Linvill
A. P. Kromer

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