

PK-88 Everett

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Memorandum L-130

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

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:
Auth: DDJST
By: RRE
Date: 3-15-60

SUBJECT: GROUP LEADERS' MEETING, December 14, 1953

To: Group Leaders

From: David R. Brown

Date: December 15, 1953

Present: Jay W. Forrester, D. R. Brown, S. H. Dodd, H. E. Everett,
J. C. Proctor, N. H. Taylor, and P. Youtz

- Agenda:
1. IBM Time Schedule
 2. Core Testing Program
 3. Special Students
 4. Data Transmission ~~Over Telephone Lines~~
 5. Paging System in Lexington
 6. Tube Program
 7. Future of MTC
 8. Revised Budget for Extraordinary Expenditures During Fiscal 1954

1. IBM Time Schedule

Detailed schedules are being prepared by J. Hunton and G. Mills at Houghkeepsie. The time schedule for the radar mapper is the first to be detailed.

J. Jacobs and H. Ross have prepared a procedure for release of parts of the F3Q-7 design. This release procedure will be reviewed by Forrester, Everett, and Taylor.

A clear definition of the functions of the Systems Office and the Schedules Office should be prepared. Releases, for example, should be handled by the Systems Office. More manpower will be required in the MIT Systems Office.

Taylor emphasized that correcting poor design is often more important than maintaining the time schedule. Where a significant number of tubes can be saved and system performance and reliability improved by a design change, the change should be made even though it holds up the time schedule.

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2. Core Testing Program

The second shipment of 100,000 cores from General Ceramics to IBM was initially rejected by IBM. The reason for the rejection has been determined, a 10 percent difference in the calibration between IBM and General Ceramics. Closer coordination and more cooperation will be necessary to carry out the core testing program.

The production group at Plant 2 in Poughkeepsie is scheduled to begin testing cores during the week of January 11. This was originally scheduled for November 15. Even with the delayed starting date, preparations are inadequate and the scheduled testing rate will not be maintained unless more effort is provided.

3. Special Students

Of the Digital Computer Laboratory staff, 62 enrolled as special students for the Fall and Spring terms of 1952-53. For the present term, however, only 16 staff members are enrolled as special students. What to do about special students after the move to Lexington will be discussed with the Steering Committee. In the meantime, we will assume that any staff member who wants to take a course in Cambridge will be permitted to do so.

4. Data Transmission Over Telephone Lines

The TSQ-7 is a transistorized type of telephone equipment with a carrier frequency of approximately 17,000 cps and a data rate of approximately 600 cps. Its use in the transition system is being considered.

Taylor pointed out that we need someone from the Bell Laboratories transmission group, resident at the Lincoln Laboratory, to help evaluate proposals of this type. The transition system imposes a new and major use of the Bell System and many problems arise which cannot be answered by referring the problem to the Bell Laboratories.

5. Paging System in Lexington

A paging system similar to that used in the Whittamore Buildings will be installed in the Division 6 area in Lexington. No attempt will be made to put speakers in every office and provision will be made for selective paging.

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6. Tube Program

Youtz contacted representatives of the three companies interested in reliable computer tubes during the Washington Joint Computer Conference. Sylvania has reduced shrinkage on the 7AK7 to 7.5 percent, a ten-fold improvement. General Electric has had similar experience with the twin triode, reducing the shrinkage from 30 percent to 3.5 percent. RCA is going ahead without support from IBM. This support may be provided by MIT if IBM is unable to make some arrangement soon.

Youtz plans to make several trips during the next few weeks to discuss progress of the 5998 and 2D21 for use in FSQ-7.

7. Future of MTC

Work on the proposal discussed at the last Group Leaders Meeting for keeping MTC in Cambridge is proceeding.

8. Revised Budget for Extraordinary Expenditures During Fiscal 1954

The revised budget being prepared by R. A. Nelson should be submitted this week.

Signed

David R. Brown

David R. Brown
Secretary

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