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Comment No. 1 From WDR to WDTLG, WDTI (in turn) Date 15 Oct 56

SUBJECT: (U) Selection of WS 117L Guidance Scheme and/or Contractor

TO: WDTI

FROM: WDTLG

DATE: 30 Oct 56

COMBENT NO. 2

Capt Thompson, 199/1202

1. This office recognizes it would be in the best interest of the US Air Force for a guidance contractor presently in the Ballistic Missile Program to provide the guidance equipment required for the WS 117L. This is predicated upon the development costs associated with the equipment as well as the probability of successfully developing and testing a suitable guidance system in the time scale allowed. It is our understanding that the WS 117L development plan provides for the first flight in April 1959, and that present discussions are considering a flight several months earlier than that set forth in the development plan.
2. The work thus far performed by the Instrumentation Laboratory at MIT on WS 117L has not in any way interfered with the work performed by MIT on the Ballistic Missile Program which is under the cognizance of this office. We strongly believe that the Instrumentation Laboratory can and should contribute to the WS 117L program and that there is no conflict of interests in the 117L and Ballistic Missile Program at MIT.
3. Use of the AC Spark Plug guidance systems, with AC modifications, could be a serious problem unless special care were taken to avoid any interference with WS 315A. However, use of the WS 315A systems being produced by AC Spark Plug and modification of these systems by an outside source should not present any insurmountable problems. It is our understanding that it is not necessary at this time to establish AC Spark Plug participation in the modification, if any of their present guidance equipment to fulfill this potential requirement for the WS 117L program. Furthermore, it would not be necessary that AC be immediately informed of the specific requirement for their present equipment in the 117L program.
4. Although production tooling and industrial facilities are planned to be available to support a production facility greater than that now required in the WS 315A schedules (October budget schedules), the availability of the guidance systems at the time required is one primarily for WDTI. WDTLG is not prepared to relinquish any guidance systems planned for engineering purposes to the WS 117L flight schedule.
5. If such a plan involving AC in the 117L program is implemented, it is recommended that the additional equipment required be added to the AC Spark Plug contract AFO4(645)-19 and supplied as GPAB to Lockheed under this contract. Under this arrangement WDR would be required to budget money in sufficient quantities to cover their requirements for AC Spark Plug guidance systems.

1 Incl: n/c

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