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[REDACTED]

1 September 1979

ARCH Program Approval

(An Advanced Research Project Agency Project)

1. Purpose: To utilize an orbiting satellite vehicle, exploiting the cover and experience of COMNA project, capable of carrying a mapping type camera, recovery system and auxiliary equipment for obtaining photographic coverage of global areas. This photography will be reduced by automatic correlation systems and be used to establish a world-wide mathematical reference datum grid and the production of digital and pictorial reference files suitable for determining the positions of prospective Soviet and other targets found on that or on principally other photography. See remarks, paragraph 6 below, for comments on the cost, management and funding aspects of the project.
2. Description of Work or Services Required (see remarks 6.b. below):
  - a. Lockheed Missile Systems Division: Prime contractor and systems manager: [REDACTED]
  - b. Fairchild Camera and Instrument Corporation: Design, manufacture of camera and assembly of camera and components: [REDACTED]
  - c. General Electric Corporation: Design, manufacture and assemble nose cone and recoverable film package unit and systems: [REDACTED]
  - d. Itak Corporation: Performance of environmental testing and acceptance inspections of cameras: [REDACTED]
  - e. Eastman Kodak: Furnish [REDACTED] film: [REDACTED]
  - f. [REDACTED]: Provide engineering services for equipment, utilizing GFE furnished equipment, for the ground data reduction and correlation systems, and for the preparation of the world grid and digital and pictorial reference files: [REDACTED]
  - g. Army Map Service: Prepare and provide photo mosaics

Declassified and Released by the N R O

In Accordance with E. O. 12958

NOV 26 1997

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██████████  
██████████

and some of technical support inputs to ██████████ and the program generally: ██████████

3. Expected Additional or Related Work or Services (see remarks, para 6.b. below):

Note -- Except possible overruns of estimates.

4. Total Estimated Program Approval Cost:

Considered firm costs, paragraph 2, above ██████████

Availability of Funds:

- a. Funds already transferred from ANPA to CIA ██████████
- b. ANPA to make available additional funds to cover requirements when finalized.

5. Delivery Schedule or Period of Performance:

- a. Launchings, two (2) primary and two (2) back-up vehicles: June - August 1960.
- b. Data reduction stage: ██████████ objective is to have an operational ground data reduction system by the end of July 1960 and to complete the program within 6 - 12 months upon submission of the last data package retrieved.

6. Remarks:

- a. The ARCON project was initiated by the Department of Defense (DOD) with the Army Map Service as the primary customer. The Advanced Research Projects Agency was designated DOD's technical manager with CIA (NSA) participating as co-technical manager of the program as well as administrator of certain contracting and security aspects of the program. CIA participation was deemed desirable for cover and security reasons, in view of COMINT project, and for the purpose of making available the technical experience and mechanism of COMINT.
- b. The funds programmed in paragraph 2 are CIA-ANPA estimates made after analysis of contractor initial

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estimates and are in the aggregate about 10% lower than the contractors figures. There is an immediate requirement to commit funds to certain of these contractors in order to avoid slippages.

- c. Since AEDCH is an AFPA project, funding for the project is the responsibility of the Department of Defense and AFPA. This program approval will cover only funding requirements to be handled by this Agency. All other funding and contracting will be handled conventionally and directly between AFPA and the Air Force Ballistics Missile Division, Los Angeles, California, for the purchase of complete Thor vehicles and boosters, Doppler tracking system and launch and retrieval facilities and services. AFPA indicated, on 27 August 1959, that a total of [redacted] is to be available for the entire AEDCH project.
- d. Attached is a financial recapitulation of AEDCH project covered by this Program Approval paper.

[redacted]  
[redacted]

~~APPROVED: OR RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL:~~  
(Approving officer strike out one)

(sgd) Richard M. Bissell, Jr. 1 SEP 1959  
RICHARD M. BISSSELL, Jr.  
Deputy Director (Plans)

"NO CIA FUNDS INVOLVED.  
PROJECT ALREADY APPROVED  
IN PRINCIPLE. IS/R.M.B."  
ALLEN W. BILLES  
Director

7. Conditions of Approval:

a. Not more than [redacted] of the above total to be obligated prior to 10 September (without further clearance).

b. Throughout the program, funds to be obligated or otherwise committed only to the extent firmly available by transfer from the Department of Defense.

Distribution:  
[redacted]

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Act to [REDACTED]

FINANCIAL NEGOTIATION

<u>Paragraph</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Process Approval</u> <u>1 Sep 52</u>
a.	Lockheed	[REDACTED]
b.	Fairchild	
c.	General Electric	
d.	Itok	
e.	Eastman Kodak	
f.	[REDACTED]	
g.	Army My Service	
	TOTAL	

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