

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

7 July 1959

SUBJECT: Control of the ARGON Program - Agency Responsibilities



1. In accordance with the conversations among representatives of ARPA, CIA, Department of the Army, and ARDC - BMD, this memorandum sets forth the relationships among these agencies in the direction and control of ARGON, and these agency relationships to program contractors.

2. In order to obtain maximum security, it is essential that CIA exercise control of ARGON: this control to range from complete control in such areas as security and cover to joint control with ARPA in other areas such as the direction of the technical aspects of the project, including payload and 117L vehicle and systems.

3. ARPA technical guidance and control will be provided through its Technical Operations Division. [redacted] has been designated as ARPA Project Manager and [redacted] as Assistant Project Manager. [redacted] of CIA will work on the project manager's staff and will function as the communication link with CIA.

4. Since the Army Map Service is the prime DOD customer for the ARGON product, arrangements have been made to establish an Army Map Service technical staff which will be responsive to the ARPA Project Manager and will contribute its initiative and competence to ARPA, CIA, and contractors in accordance with the ARPA - CIA management agreement and through channels prescribed by CIA.

5. To fulfill the Army Map Service requirements, system performance specifications will be furnished by ARPA to CIA. Air Force Ballistic Missiles Division as executive, and Lockheed as prime contractor and Systems Engineer, will be responsible for exercising the detailed technical direction of the program as established by ARPA - CIA agreement.

6. The prime contractor or contractors will be charged, under contract with CIA, with the responsibility for performance of engineering work as required by the ARGON system as a whole and for providing appropriate direction to insure the technical adequacy of various components, sub-systems and facilities required in the development of the ARGON system. The prime contractor or contractors will be responsible, except as limited below, for resolving all technical controversies arising during the development of the ARGON system and for the technical direction of the research development and production efforts of associated contractors. The prime contractor will conduct analytical studies and with the assistance of the subcontractor will provide detailed specifications and other data as may be required, based on general specifications and requirements provided by ARPA and CIA to define the satellite vehicle system and its characteristics. These will include systems specifications, criteria and requirements for major sub-systems, trajectories and

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and guidance equations, power and interface specifications, maintenance or reliability performance and accuracy estimates, weight and balance.

ARPA will be furnished copies of general performance specifications, work statements, copies of integrated test and checkout procedures for payload and boosters, and detailed places for test operations.

7. Whenever problems of a technical nature arise including disagreements among contractors, or interface problems of a technical nature involving possible compromise to the attainment of project objectives, or which may involve interference with the establishment of fully effective physical integration of vehicles and payloads, CIA and ARPA will jointly agree on appropriate solutions.

8. Should any changes in performance specifications advocated by ARPA or the prime contractor or contractors be judged by CIA to constitute a threat to the security of the ARGON program, CIA will consult with ARPA and the two agencies will agree jointly on appropriate solution.

9. In other areas responsibilities during procurement will be as follows:

a. CIA Responsibilities:

(1) Security and Cover - All aspects of security control and cover in the conduct of the program are the responsibility of CIA.

(2) Contractual Authority - Contractual authority under negotiated contracts shall vest solely in the authorized CIA contracting officer. This officer will negotiate and execute letter orders and contracts as required, including change orders for delivery of the required supplies and services. The policies and procedures to be followed in connection with such contracts shall be the same policies and procedures in effect on CIA contracts for similar procurements. Requirements set forth by the Armed Services Procurement Regulations shall be complied with to the greatest extent possible consistent with the unique security considerations inherent in the procurements undertaken by CIA.

(3) Payment, Inspections, Acceptance and Audit - CIA will accomplish necessary administrative procedures and make payments under the contracts as required in a secure manner. CIA will establish in conjunction with ARPA a system of inspection and acceptance, and will arrange with the contractors and a special Air Force audit group for audit of contracts as may be required. These audit reports shall not enter the ^{AF} Army audit system but shall be furnished directly to CIA.

(4) CIA will make appropriate arrangements under which ARPA will conduct technical discussions with prime or other contractors.

b. ARPA Responsibilities:

(1) Review jointly with CIA the proposed award to all major prime and sub-system contractors.



(2) Furnish the funds necessary for the program.

(3) Furnish any government furnished property required for effective performance of the contract work.

c. BMD Responsibilities:

These will be the same for the ARGON project as they are for other projects of joint interest to ARPA and CIA.

10. Operations - On the operational phase of the program, responsibilities will be as follows:

a. The CIA-DPD Control Center will be the central location for operational control.

b. The ARGON launches will be handled by the Palo Alto Control Center. Recovery procedures in effect for DISCOVERER will be used for ARGON. Courier service to the processing center will be the same.

c. Ballistic Missiles Division will be fully responsible for operations at Vandenberg and formal acceptance of payloads. ARGON payloads would be handled and assembled at a secure facility designated by CIA.

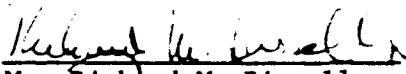
d. Political approvals for ARGON launches will be the responsibility of CIA with DOD support, and with ARPA providing technical justification for flights.

e. ARPA and CIA will maintain joint technical control throughout the operational phases of the ARGON program.

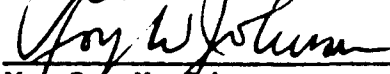
11. Reduction of Data - The Army Map Service will be responsible for furnishing the supporting data (pull-ups) to the contractor concerned with reducing the data acquired through the ARGON program and shall be responsible for the technical supervision, through ARPA and CIA, of film processing and data reduction procedures. A separate contract will be let through CIA channels to [redacted] covering the exploitation of the ARGON product.

12. Modifications, or more detailed version of the above, will be issued as required on the joint agreement of CIA and ARPA.

APPROVED:



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CIA Project Director



Mr. Roy W. Johnson
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