



Question: Is the Discoverer a reconnaissance satellite?

Answer: No

Question: Is it part of the Weapon System 117L - or Sentry - or Pied Piper program?

Answer: No. Originally, the use of the Thor booster and certain other programs were included in the Weapons System that has, at various times, been publicly identified as a reconnaissance system. The Thor program was separated from this system early this year and assigned by ARPA Directive to the Discoverer series. In effect, this enabled ARPA to accelerate the Discoverer program without prejudice to any other component of the weapons system.

Question: If the Discoverer is not part of WS 117L, and if it is not a reconnaissance satellite, will it make a contribution to a reconnaissance satellite program?

Answer: Ultimately, the Discoverer, like any satellite that achieves orbital capacity, can be expected to make a contribution to every other satellite program. However, reconnaissance as such is still very much in the research stage and must, of necessity, be considered in terms of a future development.

Question: How many Discoverer launchings will be attempted?

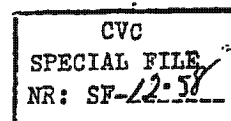
Answer: As yet, no precise number has been established. Because of the nature and variety of the experiments involved and the fact that some will orbit for short periods of time, it is expected that a considerable number will be launched.

Question: Why is Discoverer being placed in a polar orbit?

Answer: Polar orbit is the only one possible from Vandenberg AFB with hardware presently available. Eastward launch from Vandenberg is prevented by safety considerations. Launch to the West would entail an unacceptable speed penalty.

Question: Why is a low altitude orbit being used?

Answer: High altitudes are not possible with the weight-thrust ratio established for the Discoverer. Because of testing instrument requirements, a rather heavy payload is contemplated.



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7- Question: Why not launch the Discoverer from Cape Canaveral?

Answer: The facilities at Cape Canaveral are overloaded. One of the purposes in constructing a missile range on the West Coast was to reduce the burden on the Atlantic Range.

8 Question: What is the weight of the Discoverer satellite?

Answer: It is expected to be heavier than any satellite previously launched by the United States. The satellite including the integrated second stage vehicle is expected to weigh approximately 1300 pounds, of which 300 pounds is payload including instrumentation guidance and power supply.

9- Question: How many stages does the launch vehicle have and of what does each stage consist?

Answer: The main stage is a modified Thor IREM. The second stage is a new vehicle developed by Lockheed. It is powered by a Bell-Hustler engine. The second stage vehicle, after burn out, will orbit as an integral part of the satellite.

10 Question: Since it is biomedical, is it a part of the Joint NASA/MIS program?

Answer: It is a DOD contribution to the joint program.

NOTE: Any further questions should be deferred or referred to DOD as appropriate.