

NRO-APPROVED FOR RELEASE
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Functions: Prog A
YE-4184-63
Functions: Prog B
15 August 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Plans for Ultra High Resolution Satellite Reconnaissance

1. By direction of DNRO, the Directors of Progrms A and B met to agree on plans for developing an ultra high resolution satellite reconnaissance system. The following matters were discussed and agreed upon:

a. Performance Specifications:

60" dia $f/2$ and/or 40" dia $f/1.5$ with slit widths of 10" and 6" respectively. (These elements were directed.)

b. Work Statement:

A work statement will be prepared by a joint team of members from Program A and Program B with assistance as required by Aerospace. The work statement will provide for development through prototype of each of two cameras meeting the performance specifications. The technical trade offs between booster capability, stabilization, thermal environment, mode of recovery, etc., will be specified in so far as possible in parametric form to allow bidders to configure the cameras.

c. RFP:

The following corporations will be asked to bid:

EKC
Itek
Fairchild
Perkin Elmer
Hycon

The RFP proceedings will be covert. The procedure developed by Director, Program A which meets all DOD procurement standards and which was successfully employed to procure the Valley development effort will be examined by Mr's Leach and [redacted] to determine if it is compatible with Agency methods. If not, a satisfactory procedure will be jointly developed. It seems best to preserve the formality and safeguards provided by the ASPR's where they can be made compatible with security.

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d. Source Evaluation:

A source evaluation board composed of representatives of both A and B with tech panel assistance by Aerospace will be used to evaluate the proposals. The proceedings will be documented in accordance with DOD regulations and submitted to DNRO for selection and award of contract(s).

e. Management:

It was agreed that overall management would be provided by the Director of Program A with regular participation through information copies of messages and attendance at S. E. meeting by designated representatives from B. Security and contracting would be the responsibility of CIA with execution delegated to CIA representatives on Program A's staff. Aerospace would be used for System Engineering/Technical Direction. It is the intention of the Director, Program A to appoint Colonel Paul Heran as chairman of the Source Evaluation Team and Deputy Director for the program if and when contractor(s) are selected.

f. Go-Ahead Date:

Assuming approval of this outline plan, the Directors of A and B are prepared to proceed immediately with preparation of the Work Statement. A meeting on the West Coast will be called immediately upon receipt of direction by DNRO.

g. Comment:

A mil spec resolution calculation indicates the 60" f/2 system will provide approximately 2 foot ground resolution (no loss from stabilization, turbulence, v/h, etc). This compares with a theoretical 3.0 foot for GAMBIT under same conditions i. e., 100 n. m. alt, 100 lines/mm at 2:1 contrast. It is my feeling that our design goal should be [REDACTED] and that we should start with this parameter rather than a specified diameter and f no. With this in mind, I intend to carry on a parallel examination of all the system trade offs to determine feasibility of attaining [REDACTED].


ROBERT E. GREER
Major General, USAF

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