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**DIRECTOR OF DEFENSE RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING**  
 WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

29 APR 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE

SUBJECT: Approval of USAF FY 1964 RDT&E Manned Orbiting Laboratory (MOL) Program

The following program approval action is taken, subject to the availability of funds:

Program Element No.	Title	Programmed	(\$ Thousands)		
			Program Previously Approved	Program Approved by this Action	Total Program Approved
6.34.09.40.4	MOL	10,000		6,000	6,000

Based on the (1) "Preliminary Technical Development Plan for the Manned Orbiting Laboratory (MOL)" dated April 1964 (2) Memorandum from the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (R&D) to this office, subject: "Manned Orbiting Laboratory Program (MOL)" dated 10 April 1964 (3) Memorandum from the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (R&D) to this office, subject: "Work Statements for OSS Study," dated 18 March 1964 (4) Memorandum from this office to the Secretary of Defense, subject: "Initiation of MOL Pre-Phase I," dated 21 April 1964, program approval in the amount of (a) \$5.5M is granted for the pre-definition activities outlined in the Preliminary Technical Development Plan cited above (b) \$.5M is granted with the understanding that it will be made available to the Department of the Navy for support of their MOL experimental studies program.

The approval to proceed with the pre-definition activities is subject to the following:

1. Before negotiating contracts for APOLLO and one-man GEMINI studies, it is requested that you submit the proposed work statements to my office for approval.
2. Consistent with guidance contained in item (3) of the above paragraph on OSS studies, [REDACTED] should be deleted from your planning unless the Air Force can present reasons to this office for its compelling importance.
3. In all experimental studies, I request that you give particular emphasis to any opportunities to perform ground simulation testing.

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;  
 DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.

DOD DIR. 5200.10.

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Although the Preliminary Technical Development Plan for this program is satisfactory for the purpose of initiating pre-definition studies, the remainder of such Plan, as recognized in your memorandum cited in the first paragraph above, may need extensive modification before approval can be granted. The Air Force should consider carefully the relation between the rapidity with which the program proceeds and the overall cost (including boosters) to the government. ]

In conclusion, it is requested that the pre-definition studies provide the necessary information so as to permit the completion of a firm Technical Development Plan by mid-September 1964.

This action has been coordinated with the ASD(Comptroller) as to availability of fund resources and for amendment of listings of programs approved for financing.

*Harold Brown*  
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