



~~SECRET~~ HEXAGON

KEY MILESTONES
IN
FULCRUM/HEXAGON PROGRAM

MAY/JUNE 1963

DCI CONVENES PURCELL PANEL TO DETERMINE
FUTURE ROLE AND POSTURE OF U.S.
RECONNAISSANCE PROGRAM

JANUARY 1964

CIA STUDY EMPLOYING 25 PI'S TO ASCERTAIN
RESOLUTION REQUIRED TO IDENTIFY
MAJORITY USIB TARGETS

FEBRUARY 1964

CIA FUNDS ITEK STUDY TO DETERMINE
FEASIBILITY AND POTENTIAL INTELLIGENCE
VALUE OF VARIOUS SENSORS IN SATELLITES

MAY 1964

STUDIES CONCLUDE THAT WIDE AREA
COVERAGE CONSISTENT WITH HIGH RESOLUTION
WAS REQUIRED AND PROPOSAL FOR SUCH A
SYSTEM BRIEFED TO DNRO

JUNE 1964

DCI CONVENES LAND PANEL TO CRITICALLY
EXAMINE CIA PROPOSED SYSTEM. PANEL
RECOMMENDED THAT IT BE VIGOROUSLY
EXPLORED WITH TECHNICAL EMPHASIS IN A
SIX MONTH, PHASE I EFFORT TO ASSESS:

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- A. HIGH SPEED FILM TRANSPORT
- B. STABILITY AND NOISE OF CAMERA BEARINGS
- C. WEIGHT COMPATIBILITY TO TITAN II
- D. COMPONENTS OF ANGULAR MOMENTUM ASSOCIATED WITH THE ROTATING CAMERA AND THE HIGH SPEED FILM SUPPLY

JULY 1964

PHASE I BEGINS WITH ITEK AND PERKIN-ELMER WORKING ON CAMERA DESIGNS

AUGUST 1964

AIR FORCE INITIATES COMPETING DESIGNS EASTMAN-KODAK AND ITEK

FEBRUARY 1965

LAND PANEL CONVENES TO EVALUATE COMPETING DESIGNS

MARCH 1965

PERKIN-ELMER ACKNOWLEDGES ITS CAPABILITY TO BUILD CAMERA SYSTEM INCORPORATING CERTAIN MAJOR MODIFICATIONS TO ITEK'S OPTICAL BAR DESIGN

JULY 1965 THROUGH
SEPTEMBER 1966

SUSTAINING EFFORTS AT PERKIN-ELMER IN COMPETITION WITH DESIGNS AT EASTMAN-KODAK AND ITEK

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1 OCTOBER 1966

DNRO AUTHORIZES SELECTION OF PERKIN-ELMER AS SENSOR CONTRACTOR FOR HEXAGON SYSTEM

AUGUST 1967

LMSC SELECTED AS SATELLITE BASIC ASSEMBLY (SBA) CONTRACTOR

APRIL 1968

CIA SIGNS DEFINITIVE CONTRACT (CPIF) WITH PERKIN-ELMER

JUNE 1968

MCDONNELL-DOUGLAS SELECTED AS RE-ENTRY VEHICLE CONTRACTOR