



THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

RAR-B-D
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9 JUN 1969



MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
DIRECTOR, NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE

The Air Force is hereby directed to terminate the MOL Program except for those camera system elements useful for incorporation into an unmanned satellite system optimized to use the TITAN III D. Directions to MOL contractors should be issued on Tuesday morning, June 10, at which time we will also notify the Congress and make a public statement that MOL is cancelled.

Close-out costs for MOL, which I understand are approximately \$75 million more than is now available to the MOL Program, should be included in the unclassified FY 70 Air Force budget. An additional [redacted] should be included in classified NRP portions of the FY 70 Air Force budget. This will provide for development of the camera system at a reduced pace, for competition for a new spacecraft, and for possible initiation of system development late in FY 70.

All future work on the camera and an unmanned system will be part of the NRP. As a security measure, appropriate elements of the MOL Project Offices and the camera system contracts should be transferred to the Air Force NRP Special Projects Offices at an early date. Overt MOL activities should be phased out in conjunction with the closeout of MOL Program activities.

A plan for development of the unmanned system should be submitted to the Executive Committee by August 1. This plan should include proposed system performance, cost, and schedules. Other than continuing the camera system development at a reduced rate, no new work should be initiated until this review.

cc: Mr. Helms
Dr. DuBridge

BY 2-73158-69

DORIAN

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and declassification

~~TOP SECRET~~

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON 20330



June 10, 1969

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Sir:

The Secretary of the Air Force has requested that I inform you that the Department of Defense (DoD) has terminated the Air Force Manned Orbiting Laboratory (MOL) Program.

In arriving at this decision, a number of factors were considered. First, it was determined that most essential DoD space missions could be accomplished with lower cost unmanned spacecraft. Second, the potential worth of possible future applications of the experimental equipment being developed for MOL, plus the information expected from the flights on man's utility in space for military purposes, while worthwhile, did not equate in immediate value to other DoD programs.

Attached is a list of the associate and major subcontractors. It should be clearly understood that termination is not in any sense an unfavorable reflection on any of the MOL contractors. They have all worked very hard and have achieved excellent results.

Likewise, MOL termination should not be construed as a reflection on the Air Force. The MOL goals were practical and achievable; maximum benefit was being taken of hardware and experience from NASA and other DoD space projects; and the program was well-managed and good progress was being made. Under other circumstances, its continuation would have been fully justified.

The Deputy Secretary of Defense has scheduled a press conference for 10:30 a. m. today, June 10, 1969, at which time this information will be given to the news media.

Sincerely,

John J. Shaughnessy
JOHN J. SHAUGHNESSY
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Plans Group
Legislative Liaison

SAFSS

CALIFORNIA (Cont'd)

Scientific Data Systems	Santa Monica
United Technology Center (United Aircraft Corporation)	Sunnyvale
Cosmodyne Corporation	Torrance
Radio Corporation of America	Van Nuys
Marquardt Corporation	Van Nuys

COLORADO

Martin Marietta Corporation	Denver
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CONNECTICUT

Yardney Electric Corporation	Pawcatuck
Hamilton Standard (Div of United Aircraft Corp)	Windsor Locks

FLORIDA

General Electric Corporation	Daytona Beach
Tele-Dynamics Division (AMBAC Industries, Inc.)	Daytona Beach
Radiation, Inc.	Melbourne
Electro-Mechanical Research, Inc.	Sarasota
Honeywell, Inc.	St. Petersburg

IOWA

Collins Radio	Cedar Rapids
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MARYLAND

Thiokol Chemical Corporation Elkton

MASSACHUSETTS

Digital Equipment Corporation Maynard

Sylvania Electric Products
(Div of G T & T) Needham Heights

MICHIGAN

Lear Siegler, Inc. Grand Rapids

Whirlpool Corporation Systems Div St. Joseph

MINNESOTA

Honeywell, Inc. Minneapolis

Univac Div - Sperry Rand Corp Minneapolis

MISSOURI

McDonnell Douglas Corporation St. Louis

NEW YORK

Bell Aerosystems Company
(Textron Inc.) Niagara Falls

Moog Inc. East Aurora

Fairchild Hiller Farmingdale, L.I.

Kollsman Instrument Corp. Flushing

IBM Corporation Owego

OKLAHOMA

Avco Corporation

Tulsa

PENNSYLVANIA

General Electric Corporation

King of Prussia
Valley Forge

Tele-Dynamics Division
(AMBAC Industries, Inc.)

Philadelphia

Sonex Inc.

Philadelphia

United Aircraft Corporation

Southampton

American Machine & Foundry Co.

York

TEXAS

Mark Products

Houston

WISCONSIN

A.C. Electronics Division
(General Motors Corp.)

Milwaukee

Allis Chalmers

Milwaukee