

*IPC Communications  
Equipment  
Apply*

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Director-Comptroller

SUBJECT : Acquisition of Communications Computer  
for OCS [redacted]

25X1A

REFERENCE : OCS request for approval, same subject,  
dated 6 April 1970 (attached)

1. Proposal: In the attached paper, OCS requests your approval to acquire a communications computer [redacted] to handle the communications switching, buffering, data checking, and related tasks associated with the growing number of remote terminals attached to OCS computers.

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2. Need: The present system of handling the communications aspects of these remote terminals is relatively inflexible, is expensive, and places the burden of communications control and housekeeping onto the OCS computer, thereby reducing the output efficiency of the OCS computer. Eventually, some new system for handling this remote terminal communications workload will become essential. The need is already apparent with the 50 remote devices now tied to OCS computers. The need will be even more critical if anything like the 200 remote devices requested in our recent survey for installation within the next two years become a reality.

3. Staff work: OCS has done a careful job of staffing out this problem. They have found that several outside computer facilities with comparable problems are installing [redacted] (or similar) systems at the front end of their computer systems. OCS analyzed equipment marketed by seven different companies before selecting [redacted]. In response to IP Board guidance, OCS has coordinated this proposal in detail with the Office of Communications. Further, the Office of Security, the Project ASPIN Staff, and the IP Board have been briefed.

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25X1A 4. Risk: Some risk exists, of course, that the proposed equipment will not perform in the OCS operational environment as expected. In order to minimize such risk, OCS proposes to acquire the [ ] equipment during FY 1970 on a contingency basis. The equipment will be run in operational test until 1 November 1970; purchase will then be finalized if the system performs satisfactorily.

25X1A 5. Second [ ] System anticipated: OCS anticipates that a second [ ] system may be required sometime in the future. Final decision on such action will be based on experience with the initial [ ] system and upon the kind of data communication system which develops in the future within the Headquarters Building.

25X1A 6. Alternative: The alternative to procuring such gear now appears to be delay; that is, procure such gear at a later date. In view of the workload and the desirability of implementing this capability incrementally, delay is not deemed desirable.

25X1 7. Cost: Purchase cost of this [ ] system is [ ] Maintenance costs will be about [ ] per year. OCS has equipment funds in its FY 1970 budget sufficient to cover this acquisition.

25X1 8. Cost Offsets: Acquisition of the [ ] system will, OCS believes, permit subsequent release of some rented IBM equipment having a purchase value of [ ] - an appreciable offset to the cost of acquisition. Further, OCS estimates the [ ] system will obviate the need to procure additional IBM devices over the next three years having a purchase value of about [ ]

25X1A 9. Recommendation: It is recommended you approve acquisition of the [ ] system for [ ]s proposed by OCS.

[ ]  
Chairman, Information Processing Board

Attachment:  
As stated

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