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Approved For Release 2001/08/13 : CIA-RDP78B04747A002400020001-3

NPIC/P&DS/D/6-1428
17 June 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Product Improvement, 24 Inch Paper Processor [REDACTED]

1. This paper provides the background and scope for the solicitation of a proposal to perform design, engineering, and fabrication of improvements to the [REDACTED] processor required for its successful operation.

25X1A

2. The [REDACTED] processor is a roller transport photographic print processor designed to accommodate single or double weight paper prints in any size up to 24 inches in width and 40 feet in length. When developed, it was expected that the equipment would be self-threading and that prints of random sizes could be fed into the machine for processing and drying. The processor does in fact, very satisfactorily process and dry prints of all intended sizes. However, operational problems exist which seriously limit the usefulness of the machine, the major problem being that the machine is not self-threading and requires the attaching a semi-rigid tab to the print prior to processing and detachment of the tab after processing and drying. This is not only a time consuming and awkward method of transport through the machine, but sometimes results in damaged prints due to improper removal of the tab. In-house experimentation has provided a concept which partially alleviates this problem. The type plastic screen as shown on Enclosure 1, when attached to a lead tab, will lead the print (all sizes) through the machine (when the print is inserted between screen fingers) and falls free after processing and drying. The plastic screen does not damage the print, while the open mesh permits even chemical and drying action.

25X1A

3. It is the intent to solicit a proposal from a contractor to provide the following services and materials in order to overcome the operational deficiencies inherent in the existing configuration and methods:

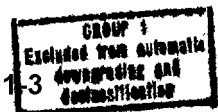
a. Obtain a sufficient quantity of suitable tab material and screen material for bonding experimentation. Design and fabricate an easel-type device that will form the tab, cut the plastic mesh fingers and bond the two for processing.

b. Design and fabricate a method of holding the plastic mesh fingers in proper position for insertion of the unprocessed print. (Enclosure 2 - Feed Bed).

Declass Review by NIMA / DoD

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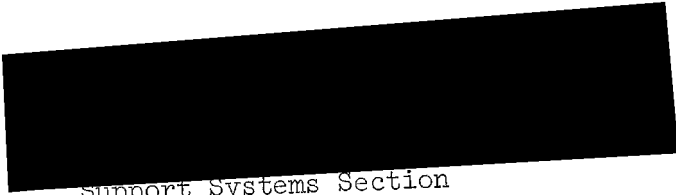
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c. Improve the air nozzles at the feed end to permit free print feed without snags.

d. Design and install a roller or guide system to permit proper exit of the prints.

4. It is felt that these improvements and modifications will result in a wholly operationally acceptable machine.

25X1A



Support Systems Section
Development Branch

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24"

positioning notch

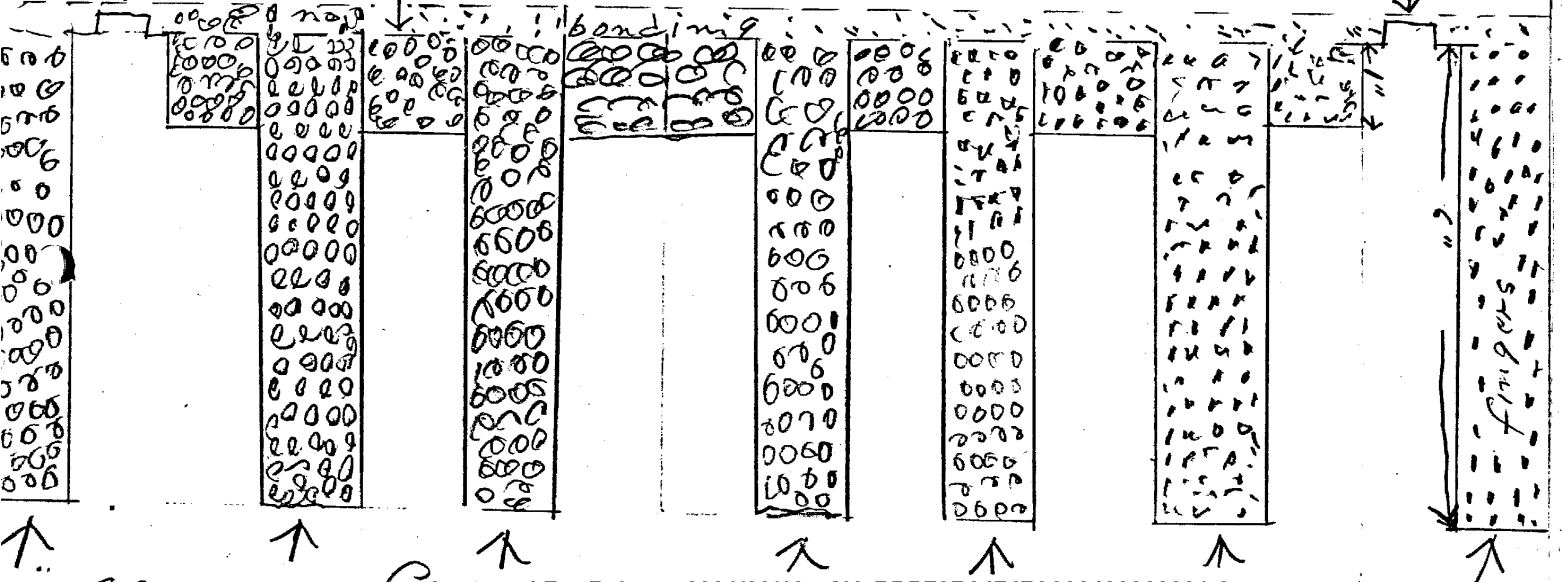
Tab

10"

T A B

(Not to scale)

positioning notch



screen fingers
incl (1)

Work Statement

IMPROVEMENT OF 24 INCH PAPER PROCESSOR [REDACTED]

STATINTL

1.1. Furnish a minimum of 100 sheets of plastic material approximately 10 X 24 inches to be used as lead tabs. The material must be pliable, of a thickness not greater than 0.010 inches and must be capable of bonding to a screen material (sample attached).

1.2. Design and fabricate a device which will bond the screen material to the tab and, in the same operation, cut the screen fingers to the proper lengths and dimensions. (See attached sketch, enclosure #1).

1.3. Design, fabricate, and install on the feed bed of the [REDACTED] processor a foot actuated device which will raise the short fingers of the screen material for insertion of the unprocessed print. (See attached photograph of feed bed, enclosure #2).

STATINTL

1.4. Design, fabricate, and install on the [REDACTED] processor, just below the feed bed, an easel that will hold a ready supply of prepared lead tabs.

STATINTL

1.5. Design, fabricate, and install a pair of beveled shoes or guides to prevent the prints from catching on the air nozzles that actuate the replenishment switches.

1.5. Because of curl induced in the prints during processing, they have a tendency to miss the exit port in the dryer.

Design, fabricate, and install such device(s) that will force proper exit of the prints.

NOTE - Except, for the lead tabs all of the above requirements are for single units to be installed on one machine.