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NPIC/D-138-70

25 MAY 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT : Request for approval of a Contract with [redacted] for an Engineering Audit of the [redacted] Automated Stereo Scanner [redacted] from FY-1970 R&D Funds

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REFERENCE : NPIC/D-116-70, Memorandum for Assistant Deputy Director for Intelligence, dated 7 April 1970

1. This memorandum requests approval for the commitment of R&D funds for a contract. The specific request is stated in Paragraph 7.

2. NPIC has had a contract with the [redacted] to design and fabricate an Automated Stereo Scanner which would be used to improve the accuracy and completeness of interpretation when scanning large volumes of film. This contract has been in effect since 1966 and has been beset with technical and management problems, and particularly, large cost overruns. The [redacted] contract is now in a stop-work condition. We have invested approximately [redacted] on this project to date, and [redacted] has estimated that an additional [redacted] will be necessary to complete the prototype. However, due to their poor previous estimates and poor management in the past, we have little confidence in this figure or in their ability to satisfactorily complete the job. We, therefore, are proposing an independent engineering audit by another highly qualified engineering company.

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3. The Engineering Audit by [redacted] will provide us with an assessment of the engineering and cost requirements to complete the Automated Stereo Scanner and thoroughly acquaint [redacted] with the system, in preparation for possible future completion of the development by [redacted]. This investigation will be accomplished through a six-month effort, evenly divided into three phases: (I) Data Gathering, (II) Technical Audit, and (III) Report and Proposal. The Automated Stereo Scanner will be shipped to [redacted] during Phase I. [redacted] will expend a total of 3655 hours, plus the services of three consultants, to review, reassemble, test, and analyze the Automated Stereo Scanner, thoroughly acquaint themselves with the problems, and provide a well-documented Statement of Work (including cost and schedule estimates) to complete the development. [redacted] has indicated they will cooperate with [redacted] in this task. Approximately 320 hours of [redacted] engineering effort will be required to participate in this study. This will consist of consultation, inventory,

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Group 1  
Automatic  
downgrading and  
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crating and shipping, and aid in reassembly of the system at [redacted]. This will cost about [redacted]. We will propose a [redacted] change-in-scope from FY-70 funds for [redacted] engineering consultation and a [redacted] no-fee amendment to Contract [redacted] to cover shipment of the hardware and required materials to [redacted]. (The latter would be from funds remaining in the contract.) [redacted] study to assess the complete system contains no inherent high risk areas inhibiting satisfactory completion of that assessment. Deliverable items from [redacted] include a Program Plan (Phase I), Technical Recommendations List (II), Final Technical Report (III), briefings upon completion of each phase, and monthly Progress Reports.

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4. The services of [redacted] were solicited by NPIC for this Engineering Audit because of their excellent technical and management performance on the High Precision Stereo Comparator (Contract [redacted]). Because there are many areas of common technology between the two programs, [redacted] is very knowledgeable of many of the unique components involved in the Stereo Scanner, and this makes them quite aware of the inherent technical complexity of the development. The fixed price level of effort cost of the Engineering Audit by [redacted]. These funds are currently programmed as a part of NPIC's FY-1970 R&D Program. As indicated above, this contract will be supported by amendments to Contract [redacted] with [redacted] which will make the partially completed Automated Stereo Scanner available to [redacted] engineers at [redacted] and which will provide appropriate [redacted] engineering personnel to [redacted] to assist in the assessment.

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5. The results of this Engineering Audit by [redacted] will be combined with a second investigation, by the [redacted]. This latter investigation will be an attempt to predict (by simulation) the relative operational intelligence value which would be attained if scanning were to be performed utilizing automatic stereo correlation. The combined data resulting from these two studies would consist of a thorough review of technical feasibility and design problems, estimated cost to complete, and an estimate of the instrument's operational value to NPIC's mission. In addition, it is anticipated that the resultant data from these studies will permit us to estimate the required number of production versions needed to provide NPIC an operational stereo scanning capability. These data will be used to consider the advisability of re-starting the Stereo Scanner development. In summary, NPIC is convinced that the objective of providing stereo scanning capability to photo interpreters has merit. The results of these two studies should indicate "how much" merit and help us determine if it is worth the cost.

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6. [redacted] will be Project Officer for this contract. [redacted] is appropriate for this work; Agency association and the work accomplished, including all reports are to be classified **SECRET**.

7. It is requested that a contract with [redacted] to conduct an Engineering Audit of the Automated Stereo Scanner development be approved at a fixed price of [redacted] in FY-1970.

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[redacted]

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**ARTHUR C. LINDMAN**  
Director

National Photographic Interpretation Center

**Attachments:**  
1. [redacted]  
2. FORM 2700

**APPROVED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Assistant Deputy Director for Intelligence Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Distribution:**  
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