

25/2/46

PROJECT MARSIK - DRAFT FORMS DF1 AND DF2

Declassified by ASD - 7/02/2022

ADS
ADA

1. Please find attached drafts of Forms DF1 and DF2 for the installation of a new DSD computer facility (Project MARSIK).
2. Some sections of the DF1 and DF2 have been left blank and ADA is requested to arrange completion of these areas. *Para 13 needs expanding.*
3. Provision of the additional input together with any other comment is requested ASAP to allow finalization of these important documents.

(J.M. NOBLE)
ADD

9 August 1983

FORM DF1

DEFENCE/DSD 1; H BLOCK, VICTORIA BARRACKS, MELBOURNE;
WORKS FOR NEW COMPUTER INSTALLATION; \$1.250M; ER

Reference: A. DPI

Introduction

DSD's prime technical facilities are installed in H Block, Victoria Barracks, Melbourne. One of DSD's major computing systems (CDC CYBER 175) is proposed for replacement in 1985/86. Reference A is the major equipment submission for this new computer facility (Project MARSIK).

2. The present CDC CYBER 175 computer system is now working to capacity and the installation of a more powerful computer system is necessary to maintain DSD's level of intelligence production. The workload on the existing computer is planned to be progressively cut over to the new computer system over a two year timeframe, 1986 and 1987. The CDC CYBER 175 will then be withdrawn from service.

3. While space for the proposed new computer installation can be identified within H Block, additional building services, mainly power and air-conditioning, but also some other related support facilities are required. These works will need to be completed by mid - 1985 to allow the installation to proceed on the proposed schedule.

4. This proposal has not received prior DFPC consideration.

Objective

5. The objective is to implement building works at H Block, Victoria Barracks to allow a new computer installation to proceed.

6. This proposal is needed to maintain DSD's intelligence/security activities.

Justification of Objectives

7. DSD's activities are an important element of the Government's intelligence/security organization. Specifically, the Government's Directive on DSD's Sigint activities requires that DSD:

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- a. develop and maintain a capability to provide signals intelligence in support of the Defence Force; and
- b. collect, produce and disseminate foreign signal intelligence in support of the national requirements of the Commonwealth Government.

8. DSD's ability to achieve these objectives is directly related to the level to which foreign communications can be exploited. This, in turn, is dependent on the power of DSD's computer systems. The present CDC CYBER 175 is working to capacity and an increase in computer power is necessary to maintain DSD's current level of intelligence production. No increase in computer power would result in significant degradation in DSD's ability to provide signals intelligence to both the Defence Force and Government.

9. The proposed works will allow the installation of a new computer, more powerful than the CDC CYBER 175. The new computer is projected to have the capacity to meet DSD's requirements into the 1990's. Reference A discusses in detail the proposed acquisition of the new computer system.

Assumptions

10. The need for the proposed works is based on the assumption that consideration of Reference A is favourable.

11. Siting of the proposed new computer system on the first floor of H Block Victoria Barracks is subject to space becoming available by the removal of a now obsolete computer system (CDC 3400). This system is scheduled for removal early 1985.

12. The works described are based on the selection of a Cray Research Incorporated computer which is the only computer currently being marketed with the necessary capabilities and available within the timeframe required.

Description of Proposed Works

13. As a result of installations associated with a recent major project undertaken by DSD, most of the H Block building services reserves have been consumed. The new installation will require some increase in these services. In addition, the design of the proposed system will require special site preparation. An initial assessment indicates works will be required in the following areas:

- a. alterations to existing air-conditioning systems;
- b. electrical works including an upgrade to the SEC sub-station;
- c. building works to accommodate the computer system, its associated power converters and maintenance area;

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- d. construction of a shielded work area to accommodate terminals and user staff;
- e. goods lift modifications to increase load capacity; and
- f. probable addition diesel emergency power generation.

Options

14. Since a computer of the required capabilities is only available from Cray Research Incorporated and all of their contending computers have similar works impact, no alternative options are available.

Justification of Proposed Location

15. The proposed location of the new computer system is now occupied by an obsolescent CDC 3400 which will be removed in early 1985. The proposed site is adjacent to the CDC CYBER 175 from which the workload will be progressively transferred.

16. This location has been chosen to avoid the additional manpower, primarily computer operations staff, and other overheads which would be involved if a physically separate location was used. The first floor location allows convenient access by programming staff as well as cable ducting systems for remote deployment of user terminals.

17. The ultimate removal of the CDC CYBER 175 will provide potential expansion capability.

Environmental Considerations

18. No known environment issues have been identified.

Land Management Considerations

19. Not applicable.

Manpower Implications

20. The new computer system is proposed to be installed and maintained under contract. Manpower required to operate and program the computer will be met from within existing manpower ceilings.

Planned Implementation

21. The proposal is equipment related (reference A refers).

22. Major milestones, based on the schedule in reference A, are detailed below:

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Cost Presentation

Consequential/Subsequential Costs

Program Flexibility

23. Advancing the program is not considered feasible; the schedule proposed the earliest practicable. Delaying the program will have a significant adverse effect on DSD's ability to fulfil its primary mission of intelligence production. Anticipated loss of intelligence production would accrue at not less than 10% per annum. This loss rate is very significant and any protracted delays will extend the recovery. Therefore there is a pressing operational need to hold to the proposed schedule.

Project Officer

FORM DF2

DEFENCE/DSD 1; H BLOCK, VICTORIA BARRACKS, MELBOURNE;
WORKS FOR NEW COMPUTER INSTALLATION; \$1.250m; ER

Background

DSD's CDC CYBER 175 is now working to capacity and the installation of a more powerful computer system is necessary to maintain DSD's level of intelligence production.

Objective

2. The objective is to implement building works at H Block Victoria Barracks to allow the installation of a new computer to proceed in 1985/86.

Justification

3. The Government's Directive on DSD requires DSD to maintain a capability to provide Sigint in support of the Defence Force and the national requirements of the Government. The proposed computer system will allow DSD to maintain current levels of intelligence production.

Description/Category

4. The proposed works cover alterations to building services (mainly power and air-conditioning) to accommodate the new system. A shielded work area for terminals and user staff is also included.

Principal Assumption

5. Works detailed are based on the selection of a Cray Research Incorporated computer which is the only computer currently being marketed with the necessary capabilities and available in the timeframe requested.

Relationship with other Proposals

6. This works proposal is related only to the provision of a major new computer for DSD.

Proposed Spread of Obligations/Expenditures

7.