

Form Z 56 C

# SUPPLY NOTE

No. 1M/3783

(To be retained by Recipient)

HWP-8864-1/53

TO:

**Mr. Sayce,  
Department of Supply,  
339 Swanston St.,  
MELBOURNE.**

FROM: DEFENCE SIGNALS BRANCH,  
C/o DEFENCE REGISTRY,  
VICTORIA BARRACKS,  
MELBOURNE.

HEREWITH:-

3/6 dated 29th November 1954 and Attachment.  
" " 19th " " . (For Mr. Brown)

Recd. *[Signature]*  
29/11/54.

Signature of Originator.....

*M. Duffy*

Date.....

29 NOV 1954

~~TOP SECRET~~

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information removed.



TELEPHONE :  
MXY 440

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE.

No. 3/6

MELBOURNE, S.C.1.

MR LAYCE

Defence Signals Branch,  
C/o Defence Registry,  
Victoria Barracks,  
MELBOURNE.

29th November, 1954.

Chief Superintendent,  
Chemical & Physical Research Laboratories,  
Department of Supply,  
SALISBURY. S.A.

COLOROB

I am grateful to have your memo. 102/5 of  
26th November, concerning the purchase of "COLOROB" for  
D.S.B.

2. The removal of your technical hesitations opens  
the way for me to seek approval for the purchase of this  
equipment from G.C.H.Q. The present position is -

- (a) the Defence Committee has already endorsed the  
need for a high priority in the allocation of  
funds for the acquisition of high-speed machinery  
for D.S.B.
- (b) provision in D.S.B. Estimates for 1954/55, and  
in the Three Year Defence Programme (1954/55 - 56/57),  
is sufficient to permit the purchase of COLOROB  
and ancillary equipment, etc., at a total cost  
of up to £40,000, payment being spread between  
1955/56 and 1956/67 (as suggested by G.C.H.Q.).
- (c) in view of Mr. Strath's previous misgivings, and  
the importance to us of having your technical  
support in this project, I had not felt able to  
proceed with action to obtain Departmental  
approval, and, thereby, to order the equipment  
from G.C.H.Q.

3. My submission will now be forwarded within the  
next few days. It will recommend that the equipment be  
ordered as soon as possible, to avoid any further  
inconvenience to yourselves and to G.C.H.Q. Taking into  
account 2 (a) and (b) above, I can see no reason why  
approval should not be given. I shall also be proposing  
that Eastway (of our "H" Group) should be attached to G.C.H.Q.  
for up to twelve months, from early 1955, for training  
in programming.

~~TOP SECRET~~





TELEPHONE :  
    MXV 440

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE.

No. ....

MELBOURNE, S.C.1.

-2-

4. The answers to your two queries, therefore, are -
- (a) subject to formal Departmental approval, D.S.B. will purchase COLOROB. I shall inform you as soon as final approval is obtained.
  - (b) the last advice we had from G.C.H.Q. was that, if the equipment could be ordered by May, 1954, delivery might be made by about September, 1955. Our delay in ordering may have affected the delivery date: I have had no advice on this point yet.
5. In the circumstances, I hope you will feel able to arrange for Messrs. Robinson and Watson to continue at G.C.H.Q., perhaps subject to review when the fate of the COLOROB proposal has been formally determined in this Department.

(R. N. THOMPSON)  
DIRECTOR, D.S.B.

Mr Sayce

Copy for your information.  
Also attached is copy of  
Dr Fos's 102/5 of 26 Nov.

Recd. J.S.  
29/11

R. 29/11

COPY

~~TOP SECRET~~

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National security and/or personal  
information removed.

102/5

26th November, 1954.

The Director,  
Defence Signals Branch,  
C/- Defence Registry,  
Victoria Barracks,  
MELBOURNE. C.1. VIC.

COLOROB - Mr. STRATH'S VISIT TO U.K.

We have received a signal from Mr. Strath concerning Colorob. In it he states that if D.S.B. are to enter the field of breaking high grade cypher with high speed machinery then Colorob is necessary. Any qualms Mr. Strath had previously felt about the applicability of Colorob to our problems, have evidently vanished.

We are now concerned with the future of Robinson and Watson. If you intend purchasing Colorob it is now clear that we should recommend that they should remain at G.C.H.Q. until the first prototype is completed; this Mr. Strath thinks will be about August next year. We now would appreciate a firm answer from you on the following two queries:-

- (a) Will D.S.B. definitely purchase Colorob?
- (b) If so, when does D.S.B. intend to make this purchase?

If it is your intention, now that our technical hesitations have been removed, to go ahead with the purchase of Colorob, it is suggested that it would be most helpful to let G.C.H.Q. know as soon as possible. We would also suggest that you send someone to the United Kingdom as soon as possible to learn full details on the programming of Colorob.

Your early reply to the points raised would allow us to contact Mr. Strath with regard to your intentions. He will then be able to make any necessary arrangements with G.C.H.Q. before he returns to Australia.

(Sgd.) F.A. FOX  
Chief Superintendent.

~~TOP SECRET~~



Advice from S. — If this place is  
to continue then C. is necessary.  
— any doubts as to applic. I.  
have vanished.

Shd. remain till 1st prototype  
till Aug.

Will they purchase?

Opens way to seek approv.

Def. Comm.

Place order as soon as poss

Eastway to go for 12 mos.

1. Will buy subj. — to dep. approv
2. Delivery date

Hope R. & W. can continue.

Memo. from Brown.

but know  
no action to  
return.

more  
needed.



instances by all departments, so that under the present system duplication of work is resulting. Moreover, owing to shortage of skilled staff it is not possible for any of the laboratories to carry out all the testing that should be done.

8. Type-Approvals Scheme. While the period contract system was a great improvement over the previous methods of purchase it has some disadvantages compared to a system known to be in operation successfully in the United Kingdom. Under the latter system any manufacturer desiring to supply paint to a Service Department or to a departmental contractor must obtain prior approval of his product against the specification. When fresh contracts are called, tender forms are sent only to those firms whose products have been approved as meeting with the standard of the relevant specification and the lowest tender is normally accepted forthwith.

The Commonwealth Paint Committee, with the general agreement of the Contract Board, Department of Supply, and the Commonwealth Stores Supply and Tender Board, as well as of its own member departments, recently decided to adopt a system based essentially on that outlined above. As a first measure manufacturers have been invited to submit samples of several types of paint for type-approval. The testing of these samples will, of necessity, extend over an appreciable time and in the meantime the present contract system will have to be continued. However, in due course, as the approvals issued by the Committee cover a number of manufacturers for each of the various types of paints, the system will greatly simplify procurement.

Best use of available scientific manpower and elimination of duplication of work is also being achieved by division of the work between the various Commonwealth Departmental laboratories with paint testing facilities.

9. Need for Review and Confirmation of Constitution of the Committee

The Commonwealth Paint Committee operates as a technical advisory body to the various participating government departments. Throughout its life the secretarial work has been performed by the Defence Standards Laboratories, Maribyrnong, and the Committee has functioned under the administrative control of the department administering the Defence Standards Laboratories, i.e. in recent years, the Department of Supply. With the inception of the Type-Approvals Scheme it has become desirable for the constitution and terms of reference to be reviewed and ministerial approval sought.

27th October, 1954.

---oOo---



RECEIVED from ADELAIDE  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Time: \_\_\_\_\_  
Operator: \_\_\_\_\_

SAM 13791 U/C

U R G E N T

TO SAYCE FROM FOX

ON FRIDAY LAST NOV 26TH I WROTE TO THOMPSON  
COPY TO YOU - A SPECIAL BAG WAS USED SINCE WRITING  
THE LETTER WE LEARNED THAT STRATH IS BOOKED ON HASTINGS  
LEAVING U K ON DEC 14TH. IN VIEW OF URGENCY CAUSED BY  
THIS DATE I ASKED OVERHEU TO PHONE THOMPSON TO ASK HIM  
TO REPLY SOON AS POSSIBLE. I UNDERSTAND THOMPSON HAS LETTER  
AND A REPLY ALREADY ON WAY. YOU MAY NOT YET HAVE SEEN MY  
LETTER BUT ON EXPECTATIONS AND THOMPSONS REPLY ARE TO THE  
EFFECT THAT ROBINSON AND WATSON SHOULD STAY IN U K TILL  
COMPLETION OF THEIR PROJECT - ESTIMATED BY STRATH AS AUGUST  
NEXT. I WANT TO SIGNAL STRATH ON THOMPSON'S REACTION AND WOULD  
ALSO APPRECIATE EARLY INFORMATION AS TO POSSIBILITY OF EXTENSION  
OF TIME FOR ROBINSON AND WATSON.

1031 29 11 54 MLG



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102/5

26th November, 1954.

The Director,  
Defence Signals Branch,  
C/o Defence Registry,  
Victoria Barracks,  
MELBOURNE. C.1. Vic.

Colorob - Mr. Strath's visit to U.K.

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(2)  
(3)

Your early reply to the points raised would allow us to contact Mr. Strath with regard to your intentions. He will then be able to make any necessary arrangements with G.C.H.Q. before he returns to Australia.

(7)

*[Handwritten signature]*

(F. A. Fox)  
CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT.

c.c. Mr. E.L. Sayce,  
Research and Development,  
Department of Supply,  
339 Swanston Street,  
MELBOURNE. C.1. Vic.

Recd. 29/11 *[Handwritten signature]*

(2) + (3) are on Mr. Thompson.  
(7) is on us.