

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD · DEPARTMENT OF NUCLEAR PHYSICS

Nuclear Physics Laboratory, 21 Banbury Road, Oxford.

Telephone 54141

From the Professor of Experimental Physics  
D. H. WILKINSON, F.R.S.

11th January, 1963.

Dr. T. G. Pickavance,  
Rutherford Laboratory,  
Harwell,  
Didcot,  
Berks.

Dear Gerry,

As you will know, I have recently been engaged with DSIR in attempting to make good the short fall between the cost of the bubble chamber analysis work here and the table 8 UGC takeover figure of £16,000 p.a. I am happy that DSIR will in fact do something about it, although what they can do will cover only running costs, and will allow nothing for capital developments.

One of the things that I asked DSIR to do was to fit us out with rough digitizers so that when the HPD comes along, we shall be able to use it efficiently, and also so that we can do crude measurements, if that is all that is necessary, much more quickly than with the more refined machines. We have decided that over the next three years we should convert five of our scanning machines into rough digitizers at a cost that at the moment is roughly estimated at about £1,300 per machine. This is not a firm figure. We should, in addition, need a technician over that period to take care of the work.

I was told yesterday by Learmouth that the Rutherford Laboratory had undertaken to provide such rough digitizers to universities, and so this element was struck out of my application. I should be very happy if you would confirm that you would be willing to entertain an application of the order I describe, and whether I could put it in immediately to cover a three year programme.

I should add that the other capital development that we are contemplating is the construction of about 3 ionisation measuring machines (effectively bubble counting devices). I will put these forward to DSIR in the first instance with Learmouth's agreement, to see if the sub-committee regards this

- 2 -

as a new development and so can admit the application. If it rejects the application, then I see nothing for it but to put this to you as well. However, this is a much more general matter, since we shall certainly use the ionization measuring devices on our CERN and other programmes whereas the rough digitizers would be tied almost exclusively to NIKNS work, or at least the use of NIKNS HPD's.

Yours sincerely,

*Damp*

P.S. I presume you have a copy of the enclosed document, but I have come across a spare in leafing through some old papers so send it to you in case you have not seen it.



XXXXX  
1900 Extn. 368

XXXXXXX CHILTON,

15th January, 1963

Professor D. H. Wilkinson, F.R.S.  
Nuclear Physics Laboratory,  
21 Banbury Road,  
Oxford.

Dear Denys,

Thank you for your letter of 11th January. I do not know where Learmouth got the idea that we had undertaken to provide rough digitizers to universities. We did give Duff at University College London some money to produce a manual measuring machine, but this was for experiments in which Rutherford Laboratory people were involved.

Nevertheless there seems to be a good case in principle for our helping you with the rough digitizers which you will need. \* I suggest that you draw up a draft proposal for an E.M.R. agreement, following the usual pattern, and send it in to me.

Yours sincerely,

T. G. Pickavance

c.c. Mr. L. B. Mullett }  
      Mr. M. Snowden    } with copy of Prof. Wilkinson's letter of  
                              11th January.

\*or Experimental, after our talk this morning - the facts required are the same