

26th July, 1960.

GPC
NI/GP/60/29

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH IN NUCLEAR SCIENCE
GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Three Nimrod Plant Contracts

Note by the Chairman of the Nimrod Project Committee

The Nimrod Project Committee recommend the following commitments for approval by the General Purposes Committee. Further details are given in the attached papers.

1. Radiofrequency Drive Chain

A contract with Messrs. Pye Ltd., initially on the basis of cost plus a fixed fee for profit to be converted as soon as possible to a fixed price contract at a cost not exceeding £35,000.

2. Power Supply Foundation Block

An increase in Messrs. English Electric's contract to cover the cost of the complete machine foundation at a fixed cost of £89,646 as compared with £60,000 previously approved.

3. Main Vacuum Chamber

Alteration in the contract as detailed in the enclosure, including provision for the manufacture of eight sections of the outer chamber at a cost not exceeding £50,000, to be begun on the basis of cost plus a fixed fee for profit, but converted as soon as possible to a fixed price basis. The most advantageous method of placing the contract to be negotiated.

F. A. Vick,
Chairman, Nimrod Project Committee

Note by the Secretary

Since early action is required on these contracts, I shall be grateful if members of the G.P.C. will let me know by correspondence whether they approve of the proposals. If any members have any comments or questions, I will refer these to the Chairman, and the Chairman of the Project Committee for appropriate action or reply. If there are no objections, I will ask the Chairman whether he will approve the recommendations on behalf of the General Purposes Committee.

Rutherford High Energy Laboratory,
Harwell.

NIMROD PROJECT COMMITTEE

Main Vacuum Chamber

1. At the special meeting of the General Purposes Committee on January 16th, 1959, the Committee considered paper NI/GP/59/1 and approved a contract being placed with Marston Excelsior Ltd. for the following:-

- 1.1 Technical study to determine the most suitable construction techniques.
- 1.2 Production of models and samples as necessary to establish manufacturing techniques.
- 1.3 Development and manufacture of one complete prototype section.
- 1.4 Submission of drawings and progress reports on the various items.
- 1.5 Manufacture of eight complete sections after approval in writing from the Authority.

The contract provided that the price for each of the eight complete sections should be agreed between the Contractor and the Authority either as:-

- (a) a fixed price,
- (b) a cost plus a fixed fee in respect of profits.

The Committee expressed a preference for the former.

2. It was originally intended that a fixed price should be negotiated simultaneously for the outer, inner and header chambers, but it is now apparent that 'price fixing' on this basis cannot be achieved since the manufacture of the outer chamber must proceed several months ahead of the inner and header chambers. It is also desirable that the manufacture of the eight sections of the outer chamber should start immediately equipment is freed from the manufacturing processes associated with the prototype. In this way several months of valuable time may be gained, and costs reduced, since the maximum utilisation will be made of the production tools.
3. Discussions have been held between the Contractor and the Authority's technical and contractual representatives, and it is proposed that the contract should be modified to enable the 'price fixing' of the outer, inner and header chambers to be arranged separately. The Contractor is unable to quote a fixed price for the eight sections of the outer chamber until he has acquired more experience of the manufacturing processes, but he has stated that he wishes to operate on a fixed price basis as soon as possible, and has expressed the opinion that it should be possible to quote a fixed price after the manufacture of two or three sections of the outer chamber. The price quoted would then be retrospective for the whole eight sections. The Authority is currently negotiating with the Contractor for a fixed fee in respect of profits for the manufacture of the outer chamber. At the appropriate time a fixed profit fee will be negotiated separately for each of the inner and header chambers, and the Contractor expects to be able to quote fixed prices for these in due course. Should the Contractor ultimately be unable to quote a fixed price or this fixed price be unacceptable to the Authority, then a cost plus a fixed fee in respect of profits will remain in operation.
4. There is provision for the proposed commitment in the latest approved estimates.

5.

It is recommended that:-

- 5.1 The present contract with Marston Excelsior Ltd., be amended to allow separate pricing of the outer, inner and header chambers.
- 5.2 Authority be given for the manufacture of eight sections of the outer chamber at an estimated cost of £50,000.
- 5.3 The Authority's contract representatives be allowed to negotiate the most advantageous method of placing the contract.

P. Bowles

Rutherford High Energy Laboratory,
Harwell.

26th July, 1960.