

COMMERCIAL-IN CONFIDENCE

SCIENCE RESEARCH COUNCIL
RUTHERFORD & APPLETON LABORATORIES

COMPUTING DIVISION

D I S T R I B U T E D C O M P U T I N G N O T E 3 3 6

PERQ
DISCUSSION PAPER 2
Current State

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1. DELIVERY OF SRC PERQ

SRC's PERQ was shipped from Three Rivers Computer Corporation (3RCC) in November and has been stuck in UKTSD, New York ever since. UKTSD says export licence now granted so delivery should be in the next few days.

2. DELIVERY OF ICL PERQ

ICL's PERQ is currently being converted to 50 Hz operation in the 3RCC factory. It is due to leave the factory on 13.1.81. It will be picked up at Heathrow by R Vinnicombe and brought straight to RAL.

3. ICL AND 3RCC

Protracted negotiations about a marketing agreement are still continuing. ICL are now dealing directly with Fredkin. Agreement will not be reached until ICL senior management see a convincing demonstration of PERQ here in the UK.

The relationship between ICL and 3RCC and the delicacy of ICL's internal politics make it essential that SRC staff act with the utmost caution and discretion in all matters concerning or even indirectly affecting the industrial agreement.

4. SRC COMMITTEES

The subject committees (DCS, CCSC) and the ICF are all keen to further the ICL/PERQ deal and see researchers well equipped. ICF, DCS and CCSC members know about the possibility of an ICL/3RCC deal but are 'under oath' to keep this knowledge confidential.

5. ACADEMIC COMMUNITY

Those academics who have heard about the PERQ are very keen to get their hands on some. No academics (outside SRC committees) should know about the ICL/3RCC negotiations, with the exception of Edinburgh through their ICF connection. People like Prof Coulouris, who has two PERQs due him on an SRC grant, do not know about the negotiations. No-one else has yet had an SRC grant awarded which includes PERQs.

6. LOGICA VTS

Logica VTS, through William Newman (of Newman & Sproul fame), have two PERQs on order. Logica know that ICL are negotiating with 3RCC. DCS has good links with Logica VTS. They have just won an order for £135K worth of Cambridge Ring equipment from DCS. Newman is highly likely to connect his PERQs to the Cambridge Ring - an activity in which DCS has a keen interest.

7. PERQ ROOM

The DCS area near the Primes will be used for engineering investigations and the initial software work. J Bellis's office is to be made available to house the PERQs to provide a higher class of environment for the crucial demonstrations. 60 Hz power, Cambridge Ring etc will be put into this office.