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NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION
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IN REPLY REFER TO: ASC

November 20, 1963

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Dr. Abe Silverstein
Director
Lewis Research Center
21000 Brookpark Road
Cleveland 35, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silverstein:

As you are aware, Dr. Dryden has appointed a committee to make a further study of potential geographical locations for the proposed Electronics Research Center. Details relative to the committee's assignment are contained in the attached two references: News Release No. 63-233, dated October 21, 1963, and Dr. Seaman's memorandum, dated October 9, 1963.

The committee feels that a knowledge of some of Lewis' experiences with regard to graduate training, employee activity in local chapters of national professional societies, and support from local industrial firms would be very useful for analysis of various characteristics of geographical areas where the proposed new center might be located.

With regard to the graduate study program the committee is seeking answers to the following questions: How many members of the professional staff have taken graduate courses under the graduate study program and with what universities? How many have participated at each university during each of the last five years and how many Master's and Doctor's degrees have been earned during each of those years? What was the professional staff complement during each of those years? What percentage of the total professional staff has participated in the graduate training program at one time or another? What are Lewis' comments regarding the distance from Lewis to the cooperating universities? What effect would larger or shorter distances have?

The committee is also interested in information concerning local professional society activity. How many of the staff members belong to local chapters or sections of the IEEE, the AIAA, other professional societies, or local engineering clubs? What are Lewis' comments regarding the importance or value to the Lewis' staff of participation in the activities of these groups?

With regard to local industrial firms, we would appreciate the following type of information. What is the estimated annual dollar volume of specialized technical support to Lewis by industry within the local area? What are the types of special services such as instrument repair, glass

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Memorandum

Maybe list


Proc & Supply

blowing, data processing, which are supplied by local industrial firms? What are your comments regarding the availability or lack of availability of such local support in your area and its effects on center staffing and operations?

Please respond to the above with whatever information is most readily available and feel free to add any additional information or comments which you feel might be useful to the committee.

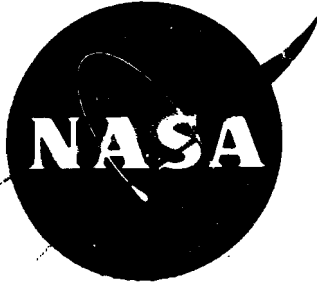
Your assistance in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Francis B. Smith". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Francis B. Smith, Chairman
Area Survey Committee

Attachments (2)



NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

400 MARYLAND AVENUE, SW, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20546

TELEPHONES: WORTH 2-4155 ----- WORTH3-6925

FOR RELEASE:

PM's MONDAY

Oct. 21, 1963

RELEASE NO: 63-233

NASA NAMES COMMITTEE TO STUDY LOCATION OF ELECTRONICS CENTER

Appointment of a fact-finding committee to evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of potential geographic locations for its proposed Electronics Research Center was announced today by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

- more -

Webb pointed out that the new center will conduct sufficient basic and applied research to keep its staff abreast of advanced developments in the electronics field, but will also have as a major responsibility the approval of and technical monitoring of university research and production contracts. It will be responsible for fully utilizing the research competence and potential of universities and industries throughout the nation, rather than creating new resources. The importance of this new center is emphasized by the fact that NASA electronics research and development represents a substantial portion of the investment the nation is making in space research and exploration.

In authorizing funds for the center (PL 88-113), Congress stipulated that none may be expended until after the NASA Administrator transmits to the Congress a report detailing the geographic location, need for, and nature of the research center. House and Senate committees then will have 45 days in which to review the studies and indicate any objections.

The space agency requested \$5 million for the electronics center in the 1964 fiscal year. Congress authorized \$3.9 million, subject to the report requirements, noting that an additional \$1.1 million was available for advanced planning.

The current in-house effort is diffused and relatively small and has limited NASA's contractual research efforts in electronics. The lack of a group of able, experienced scientists and engineers concentrating on space electronics research and relating contracted research to the overall space program has not provided an adequate technical base for the phase of NASA's program now being entered. Substantial electronics research support will be needed as the prime contracts for boosters and spacecraft are concluded and emphasis shifts to spacecraft guidance, control and communications, and linkages of these to NASA's world-wide network of ground control data acquisition, and deep space communications.

The basic purpose of the Electronics Research Center is to correct the existing deficiency and to provide NASA with the personnel and resources to properly plan, conduct, direct, supervise, and utilize electronics research and selected advanced development.

As in the past, contracts and grants to industry and universities will be utilized as much as possible in performing the required work. More than 90 percent of NASA's overall work and 70 percent of its research are performed under contract.

The committee will include in its final report to the Administrator a general evaluation of the economic impact the research would have on the area in which it is located.

At an appropriate time, NASA will give key public officials an opportunity to present such additional or supplemental data as they wish to have considered along with the committee's report at the time of the final decision. Where practical, this data should be submitted in writing to the NASA Administrator. If oral presentations are considered essential, Assistant Deputy Administrator Dr. George L. Simpson will be responsible for scheduling and conducting as appropriate hearing.

- END -



NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON 25, D.C. 20546

Office of the Administrator

OCT - 9 1963

TO : NASA Center Directors
Headquarters Program Office Directors
Director, Jet Propulsion Laboratory

FROM : Associate Administrator

SUBJECT: Plans for establishment of NASA's proposed
Electronics Research Center

The NASA FY 1964 Authorization Bill, as recently passed by the Congress, gives favorable consideration to our proposal for a new Electronics Research Center, but with certain reservations. The Congressional authorization provided the full \$5 million requested for the Center this year. These funds are reflected in two items of the "Construction of Facilities" category of the bill; \$3.9 million is included under the item of "Various Locations," and \$1.1 million in the "Facility Planning and Design" item.

The Authorization Bill requires that NASA conduct an additional study relative to the national location of, need for, and nature of the Center prior to any expenditure of the \$3.9 million. Plans are currently being formulated to proceed with the required study.

The report entitled Electronics Research Center - Requirements, Operations, Implementation Plans, recently forwarded to you, explains most of the aspects of the plans for the Center in some detail. This report was submitted to the Congress during their review of our proposal for the Electronics Research Center. In addition, I am enclosing, for background information, a copy of letters from the Administrator to the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Aeronautical and Space Sciences, and the Chairman of the House Committee on Science and Astronautics.

An Electronics Research Task Group (ERTG) was established in February 1963, under the Director of the Office of Advanced Research and Technology, to conduct the preliminary planning required in initiating the new Center. The

responsibility for the conduct of the implementation ("nature of") and requirements ("need for") phases of the study required by Congress has been assigned to the Office of Advanced Research and Technology. In implementing the study, small Headquarters study groups, working with representatives of the Task Group, are being established to cover these study areas. I believe that cognizant personnel from the Centers could provide valuable assistance to these study groups in compiling the best data in a minimum time period. It is planned to employ the Steering Groups for Control, Guidance and Navigation, and for Communications, Instrumentation and Data Processing for this purpose. The Steering Groups are comprised of the NASA representatives on the Research Advisory Committees for Control, Guidance and Navigation, and for Communications, Instrumentation and Data Processing, respectively, and have been functioning effectively as advisors to OART. These representatives shall be prepared to speak for their respective Centers in assisting the aforementioned study groups. It is expected that they will be called upon in the immediate future to attend a few meetings in Washington. Members of the Steering Groups will be contacted by Mr. Laurence F. Gilchrist, Chairman of the Implementation Study Group.

In addition to the two study groups, an Area Evaluation Team is being established to conduct the national survey requested by Congress. In putting this team together, it may be necessary to prevail upon selected Centers for the time and assistance of specific individuals. In these instances, the Center Director will be contacted directly.

I expect that each Center and Program Office will provide its full cooperation in assisting in these planning operations. The contribution that you and members of your staff can make during the formative stage of the Center planning will do much to set a pattern for the successful operation of the Center, which is essential to the future of NASA and its objectives.

Dr. Albert J. Kelley, Manager of the Electronics Research Task Group, will be in direct contact with you relative to any further assistance which might be desired.

Robert C. Seamans, Jr.

Robert C. Seamans, Jr.

cc:
B/Director, Office of Administration

Enclosures 2

The key issue in the selection of a site for the electronics center is the availability of competent personnel. Recruiting experience for the various NABA Centers shows that most of the new hires come from localities within a 200 to 300 mile radius of the Center. In my opinion, it would be virtually impossible to staff a new Center in the Cleveland area with competent electronic professionals particularly at the salaries we can offer. Because of this difficulty in hiring, the site selection should necessarily consider geographical areas in which the heaviest concentrations of electronic talent exist.

I recognize the problems your survey team faces in the site selection and hope that these comments and data are of some assistance. If we can be helpful in providing additional information, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Abe Silverstein
Director

NASA NAMES PANEL TO FIND CENTER SITE

WASHINGTON, Oct. 21 (AP)

—The National Aeronautics and Space Administration named today a five-men committee to study possible locations for its proposed multi-million-dollar electronics research center.

The center was initially to have been built in the Boston area. Congressional critics, however, contended the Boston area was chosen because of the influence of Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts, who is the brother of the President.

In authorizing construction of the new center, Congress later ruled that no money could be spent for it until a detailed report had been submitted on the geographic location and on the

nature of, and need for, such an installation.

NASA had asked for \$5 million for the project in the current fiscal year. Congress authorized \$3.9 million, subject to the reporting requirement, and made an additional \$1.1 million available for advance planning.

The space agency said the committee would evaluate such factors as regional concentrations of industrial, professional and academic resources in the electronic fields.

Francis B. Smith, chief of the Instrument Research Division of the NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Va., is chairman of the committee. Other members are Dr. B. Richard Teare Jr., dean of engineering and science at the Carnegie Institute of Technology, and Wendell H. Pigman, Dr. G. Allan Smith, C. R. Morrison, all NASA employees.

SUFFOLK TO PRESS FOR NASA PROJECT

Special to The New York Times

New York Times (1923-); Dec 24, 1963; ProQuest Historical Newspapers:

The New York Times with Index pg. 19

SUFFOLK TO PRESS FOR NASA PROJECT

Special to The New York Times

RIVERHEAD, L. I., Dec. 23—

Suffolk County entered its bid today for a Federal electronics research center that could bring millions of dollars worth of contracts for Long Island.

The Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution authorizing County Executive H. Lee Dennison to negotiate for the establishment of the proposed \$60 million National Aeronautics and Space Administration facility in Suffolk.

Preliminary hearings on selecting the site have been held in Washington. Massachusetts and Long Island are the leading contenders, but it is felt that Boston is favored.

Mr. Dennison and other officials plan to emphasize Long Island's educational institutions, defense industries, labor market and sites.

NASA Electronics Center Urged for New York State

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29 (AP)—The New York Congressional delegation urged the National Aeronautics and Space Administration today to select a site in New York State for its proposed electronics research center.

In a letter to James E. Webb, administrator, the delegation's steering committee referred to applications submitted by the Syracuse University Research Corporation with the support of the Rome and Utica Development Corporations, and by the Long Island Electronics Manufacturers Association.

"Each of these geographic areas would seem to respond nicely to the criteria to be used by you in making your selection," the letter asserted.

"Both of these areas have sizable engineering course enrollments at the undergraduate level. More importantly, each has solid programs of high-caliber continuing professional education, a field in which New York has been the forerunner."

SPACE UNIT BACKS A BOSTON CENTER

But Foes Threaten to Carry Dispute to House Floor

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24—By a divided vote the House Committee on Science and Astronautics approved today the space agency's controversial plan to build a \$60 million electronics research center in the Boston area.

The decision was reached at a reportedly heated meeting that found Administration supporters pressing for approval and opponents questioning the need for the center and its location in Boston. The 18-13 vote was reported to have cut across party lines.

In the opinion of some committee members, the effect may be to force into the open what they view as the "pork-barrel" use of the space program and its lucrative contracts. Some opponents were threatening to take the issue to the House floor.

Proposed a Year Ago

The center has been embroiled in political bickering since it was proposed over a year ago by the Kennedy Administration.

The choice of Boston prompted charges that the project represented an Administration attempt to redeem a campaign promise by Senator Edward M. Kennedy that he could "do more" for Massachusetts. That belief was shared privately by some of Mr. Kennedy's fellow Democrats.

Representative John W. Wyder, Republican of Garden City, L. I., charged after the committee meeting that the vote was "the first memorial to the junior Senator from Massachusetts."

Political suspicions over the center were aroused by the unusual manner in which the project had been advanced. Congressional hearings brought out that the center was a last-minute addition to the space agency budget in 1962 and that Boston had been picked without the customary agency review of potential locations.

As a result of protests, Congress provided last year that the space agency could not start on the center until it had submitted a report justifying the need for the laboratory and its location. This set off intensive regional competition, with 50 areas seeking to get the center.

After a review by a five-man committee, the agency reported to Congress last month that the center was needed to meet its growing research needs in electronics.

As expected, the agency also reaffirmed its recommendation for Boston on the ground that the center would thus be near an industry-university complex heavily engaged in electronics research.

Under last year's legislation, the agency will be permitted to go ahead with the project unless it is vetoed by the House or Senate space committees. Little

difficulty is expected in obtaining the Senate committee's approval.

However, a good part of the protest has come from members of Congress representing areas that did not get the center. These complaints are based largely on the grounds that the center is not needed and is being pushed for political reasons.

NASA Approves Site in Cambridge For a Laboratory

WASHINGTON, Aug. 20 (AP) —The National Aeronautics and Space Administration tentatively accepted a 29-acre tract from the city of Cambridge, Mass., today as the site for an electronics - research center. Cost estimates for the center have ranged up to \$60 million.

The NASA administrator, James E. Webb, said in a letter to Mayor Edward A. Crane of Cambridge that several issues must be resolved before final plans could be made.

The land is in the Kendall Square area, immediately north of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and near Harvard University.

It is bordered by Binney Street on the north, Broadway on the south, Third Street on the east and the Grand Junction Railroad on the west.

Acceptance of the tract will depend in part, Mr. Webb said, on the development of these things:

¶Satisfactory plans for filling in Broad Canal and for handling easement and water-right matters.

¶Satisfactory plans by the city for the closing of Fifth, Sixth, Munroe, and Potter Streets, and for the relocation of the railroad spur on Potter and Munroe Streets.

¶A plan giving high priority to a coordinated timetable for the relocation of occupants of buildings in the affected area.

NASA will also await formal approval by local and Federal officials to permit the city to provide not less than 29 acres of cleared, usable land under Federal urban - renewal procedures.

Mr. Webb said the space administration and the city had agreed that if arrangements leading to the use of the site could not be completed without "unreasonable delay," they would cooperate to drop the plans.

NASA SITTING OUT STORM OVER SITE

Opponents of M.I.T. Center
Suggest Watertown

By JOHN H. FENTON
Special to The New York Times

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., Nov. 21—The National Aeronautics and Space Administration is sitting out a storm over its decision to locate a \$61 million electronics research center near the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The situation was pointed out yesterday during discussions of the projected closings of 95 United States military bases around the world as part of an Administration economy drive. Persons opposed to having the research center in the Kendall Square area assert that it should have gone to neighboring Watertown, Mass., where a Federal arsenal is being phased out.

However, the Watertown arsenal was marked for closing long before Thursday's announcement of the other economy moves. And NASA officials have asserted that the arsenal site was among those under final consideration before James E. Webb, administrator of the space agency, chose Kendall Square last August.

As matters stand, 94 businesses in the 29-acre plot selected for the center site are to be displaced. The Cambridge City Council has applied for

\$663,000 in Federal funds for surveys and planning of the center under urban renewal.

Under leadership of officials of the Electronics Corporation of America, one of the companies that would be displaced, the industrial neighborhood has formed the Committee for the Preservation of Cambridge Industry. Dr. John J. Brennan, vice president of the electronics concern, is chairman. The group plans to fight the project in the courts and has retained a public relations concern.

The 94 businesses range from electronics to lunchrooms and employ about 4,000 workers. Dr. Brennan holds that the businesses have real estate valued at \$20 million and equipment worth another \$20 million.

Although he was out of town yesterday and unavailable for comment, Dr. James R. Killian Jr., chairman of the board of M.I.T., has expressed his confidence, "in the soundness of NASA's judgment in indicating its preference for a site in Cambridge."

'Political Payoff' Charged

Mayor A. Crane of Cambridge considers the area as a "run-down, seedy, third-rate industrial area." He said that he was inviting any doubters to visit the site. He noted that a disused canal through the section would be filled in as part of the center's plans. The canal, said Mayor Crane, is "an open sore."

Comments by opponents have ranged from charges that the center was a "political payoff" to Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts, to assertions that "some kind of a deal" existed among NASA,

M.I.T. and urban renewal officials.

The Kendall Square area not only is adjacent to M.I.T. but also is close to Harvard University. A NASA spokesman who declined identification reiterated the agency's position that the site best filled the requirements for such a center. And as for the Watertown arsenal site, he asked, "Under what conditions would it be feasible?" The arsenal is about three miles from M.I.T.

The Watertown arsenal covers an area of 119 acres and has 2,350 employees. It has been making armaments for the Government since 1816. The increase in nuclear weaponry has militated against its future usefulness. In keeping with Defense Department policy, the displaced employees will be offered jobs elsewhere, although not necessarily in this area.

Before the selection of Kendall Square as the site for the center, scores of other New

England communities had sought it.

Despite the controversy, the Corps of Army Engineers has begun test borings at the site. Temporary headquarters for the research center have been established in the Technology Square Building, a new multi-story structure in the same neighborhood. Dr. Winston E. Kock, former vice president of research for the Bendix Corporation, assumed the post of director of the center on Sept. 1.