4.1.3 John F. Kennedy Space Center

At KSC, the general-purpose and special-purpose equipment, other than for checkout applications, is located in the Data Systems Division under the direction of Dr. Rudolf H. Bruns.

Special-purpose checkout equipment is located in Launch Operations. Each of the user groups operates checkout equipment in conjunction with the flight hardware supplier for the particular operation.

4.1.4 Intercenter Relations

The Office of Manned Space Flight and its three Centers work together on computational matters through the MSF Resources Sharing Panel which meets periodically on an informal basis. This group works in computer-related management problems such as standardization of programs between two or more Centers (e.g., the Launch Data Processing by KSC and subsequent data transmission to MSC and MSFC and exchange of programs among Centers to eliminate duplication of programming efforts).

In addition to participation in the MSF Resources Sharing Panel, each of the Centers is represented on the NASA Intercenter Committee on ADP. This group serves in an advisory capacity to Dr. Robert Seamans, NASA Deputy Administrator, in insuring compliance within NASA to other government-agency policies and regulations, in establishing intercenter and agency-wide policy, and in solving specific computer-management related problems.

Additional responsibilities in the area of computer resource sharing have recently been placed on MSFC and MSC. In establishing a government-wide Computer Resources Sharing System, GSA has, through mutual agreement, appointed MSFC as the Alabama, Mississippi, and Slidell Regional Exchange Center and MSC as the South Texas Regional Exchange Center. In this capacity, these centers act as the catalyst to further the sharing of government-wide computer resources within their areas and to coordinate requirements for computer resources from other areas.

To bring into focus the two trends of innovations in space flight technology and innovations in computer technology, there has been a critical need to devote effort to research and development in the computer sciences and to the performance of complex mathematical investigation into fundamental aspects of problems encountered during manned and unmanned space flight research. The MSF Centers have been instrumental in extending these frontiers of computer knowledge. Technical experts in each of the computational elements investigate computer solutions