

These reviews may be in conjunction with POP reviews or studies of individual areas of the computer picture. In addition to established management reviews both at NASA Headquarters and field Centers, reviews, both formal and informal, are conducted as specific requirements or situations may dictate.

5.2 COMPUTER RESOURCE ACQUISITION

The basic computer acquisition procedures for NASA are derived from BOB Circular Nos. A-54 and 60-6 and from NASA Document NHB 2410.1 and are defined in more detail in individual Center policies and procedures.

In essence, these procedures require that the selection of equipment to meet a given need be based primarily on the capability of the equipment to fulfill system specifications and on the most economical method of acquisition, installation, and operation.

The computer acquisition procedure is divided into two major steps. As depicted in figure 5-1, the user at a Center must have his requirements validated and get approval from Center and NASA Headquarters management prior to initiation of the acquisition process for a computer. As shown in figure 5-2, after approval, the Center establishes a Source Evaluation Board (SEB) and enters the acquisition cycle.

Early in the acquisition process, the requesting installation prepares a computer acquisition plan. This document is submitted through channels to the Associate Administrator for approval. Prior concurrence of the Associate Administrator for Manned Space Flight and the Associate Administrator for Tracking and Data Acquisition is required for all computers covered by these procedures before the acquisition plan is approved and the procurement process initiated.

The acquisition plan includes an evaluation to show clearly that computer requirements cannot wholly or partially be met by:

- (1) The use of existing computer resources, available either within NASA, from other government agencies, or from contractors
- (2) The use of computers that may be excess to the needs of other elements of NASA or other government agencies and which are available or will become available by the planned installation date
- (3) The augmentation of an existing ADP facility