

The acquisition plan also contains a written justification for the equipment, citing the specific requirements that will be satisfied. This justification gives an estimate of utilization, special input/output (I/O) requirements, backup needs, operational constraints, and so forth. Specifications for the equipment are included which describe the equipment proposed for acquisition in detail. The plan must also include estimated dates for readiness review, software checkout, training, and program conversion.

The computer acquisition procedures are designed to give management the ability to carefully assess and review computer acquisitions. Following this assessment, review, and approval, the Center then proceeds to enter the procurement cycle. First, qualified computer manufacturers are invited to submit proposals on the specifications developed for the computer to be acquired. Criteria are developed, defined, and weighted by the SEB and are used as the basis of the SEB's statement of facts to the selection official. Depending on the dollar amount of the acquisition, the procedure for selection as depicted in figure 5-2 is followed. A more detailed explanation of the SEB may be found in NASA Document NPC 402, Source Evaluation Board Manual.

5.3 COMPUTER RESOURCE CONTROL

The expenditure of computer resources is controlled in MSF by methods of workload control for all computing efforts and contract monitoring for contracted efforts involving computer resources.

5.3.1 Workload Control in the Computation Facilities

The objective of the established workload control system in the MSF computational facilities is to furnish the means for planning, reviewing, and analyzing work requests and, as a result, controlling the work effort and expenditure of resources in the MSF computation facilities.

The MSF computational facilities involved in this formal system are the general-purpose computer support organizations at KSC, MSC, and MSFC.

A prime benefit of workload control is to reduce to the minimum degree the possibility of expending computer resources on marginal tasks. In essence, discipline in the use of computer services is achieved by assigning each user element a dollar budget against which computer usage