

by GSA, such as other computer equipment now listed. The Government and the independent peripheral manufacturer then is assured that the specifications, input/output data, and control requirements of the peripheral interface are frozen or standardized and not subject to change at the whim or design of the computer manufacturer to intentionally or not thwart attempts of end users, such as the Government, from buying from second sources often less expensive and superior performing peripheral equipment; and equipment not available from the computer manufacturer.

One company has done this. The Honeywell Corp. has designed, built, and is marketing such a peripheral adapter. This unit allows the 200 series Honeywell computers to transmit data to and receive data from a wide variety of peripheral equipment not included in the standard series 200 product line. It is not in itself a complete peripheral controller which would be supplied by the independent peripheral manufacturer, however, it does contain all the common features required to communicate with the 200 line computers without the peripheral manufacturer or the Government necessarily becoming involved in the internal bussing and control operations of the computer proper.

Availability of this type of device gives the Government freedom in purchasing computer peripheral devices not manufactured or sold by Honeywell. The general purpose peripheral adapter offered by Honeywell appears to be unique in the computer industry and is something that should be required, in our opinion, of all computer manufacturers doing business with the U.S. Government.

Bryant Computer Products is currently offering several large industrial organizations series 4000 Bryant disc file systems attaching to a Honeywell 200 through their adapter. The XLO-1000 Controller, manufactured by Bryant, is compatible with the Honeywell peripheral adapted with a minimum of effort, as it would to any similar general-purpose adapters made available by other computer manufacturers.

We feel strongly, in conclusion, that the Government is not and cannot efficiently, at lowest cost, purchase complete computer systems for all types and classifications of applications as complete systems from any of the major computer manufacturers. This is due to the diversification of requirements for performance, cost, and for input/output of peripheral equipment which is becoming more highly specialized and more important to the average computer installation every day than is the capability of the main frame itself.

Computer systems cost is increasingly going into the electro-mechanical peripheral equipment area, and the trend is expected to continue upward for many years. In order for the Government to be able to purchase the best of these peripheral devices and to assemble systems with a minimum of difficulty, at the lowest possible price, a common interface is essential in the fourth generation computers now on the drawing boards. However, we feel there is no necessity to delay these benefits, nor to further tolerate the stifling of competition and the possible demise of very capable independent peripheral companies and their technology, by waiting for the advent of the fourth generation and a common Federal interface.

The general-purpose peripheral adapter is a device that can be designed and made available for any computer series by any manufac-