

tion of overcrowded conditions on the limited channels then available. Operation with R-F amplifier AM-4306 is improved accordingly with reduction of mutual interference.

"(3) Receiver radio-frequency circuitry was re-designed to improve desensitization characteristics when operating in the vicinity of high-energy RF fields. The improvement in this area again increases the number of available frequency assignments when operating with other radios. Squelch circuitry was also re-designed to increase sensitivity and to provide improved re-transmission operation. Wide band amplifier and interlock circuitry was also added to accommodate an interface with classified equipment."

It is indicated further that because of the electrical and mechanical changes to the modules and main chassis of the AN/PRC-25 radio, tooling or gauging for the AN/PRC-25 could not be used in producing the AN/PRC-77 and phasing into an existing AN/PRC-25 production line would not be possible at the present time.

The AN/PRC-77 radio was approved for limited production by the Office of the Chief of Research and Development, Department of the Army, in June 1966 after eight AN/PRC-77 prototypes were tested in-plant and in the field. The tests demonstrated that the radio met the requirements for reduced spurious responses and radiations, improved receiver performance when exposed to high level R-F field radiation and compatibility with classified equipment while maintaining the ruggedness of the AN/PRC-25. The testing is summarized as follows:

- "(1) Complete electrical testing under room environment.
- "(2) Mechanical testing including vibration, bounce, and shock tests.
- "(3) Environmental testing including heat, cold, and humidity tests.
- "(4) Radio frequency interference tests.
- "(5) Field testing including communication range tests.
- "(6) Re-transmission testing.
- "(7) System testing with classified equipment."

Following the approval of the Department of the Army for an initial limited production of AN/PRC-77 radios, the first production contract was placed with RCA on June 29, 1966. There was an immediate and urgent Southeast Asia requirement for the radios and the requirement was assigned an 02 priority designator. As a result, the contract was negotiated under the authority of 10 U.S.C. 2304(a)(2) and ASPR 3-202.2(vi). The statute authorizes contracts to be negotiated if the public exigency will not permit delay incident to advertising. ASPR 3-202.2(vi) permits utilization of this authority when a purchase request cites an issue priority designator 1 through 6. The negotiation was restricted to RCA because procurement data was not available for competition and the company as the designer of the radio was believed to be the only source capable of furnishing the sets starting in March 1967 with completion by September 1967.

Drawings and data from this first production contract are not expected to be delivered to the Government until late 1967. The contracting officer has stated that until such time as the production design has been verified by first article testing, proven out in production, and production drawings released, the Army is not in a position to provide technical data for competition. In the absence of competitive procurement data and in view of the continued priority for the equipment, subsequent production contracts also have been placed with RCA as the only known source capable of furnishing the radio within the required time frame under the authority of 10 U.S.C. 2304(a)(2) and ASPR 3-202.2(vi), cited above. The contracts, the last of which was awarded on April 28, 1967, under request for proposals PIIN DAAB05-67-R-1176, cover production through May 1969 and these contracts had the advance approval of the Department of the Army which had extended the initial June 1966 approval for limited production in October and December 1966.

The contracting officer has further advised that, based upon current expectations of the receipt of drawings and data from the production contractor, it is anticipated that a technical data package adequate for competition will be available late this year. At that time, an advertisement of competitive bidding on a 3-year multiyear procurement is contemplated. While a competitive procurement is planned toward the end of the year, it is indicated that procurement leadtime of 20 months will have to be provided to accommodate new suppliers and this will result in initial delivery about August 1969, whereas delivery of the last procurement is required starting in February 1968. It is indicated that if the