

There are documented studies available for most major systems. There are also some systems which have evolved from EAM operations which will not have documented studies. There are also projects especially in the area of support to scientific sampling, which by their nature are determinable without such studies. In such cases the feasibility of doing these operations manually is nonexistent.

43. Can you cite instances in which a request for a computer system was disapproved for lack of adequate justification?

If it is the intent of this question to define the term "computer system" as meaning computer hardware, we can cite no instance where a request was denied; inasmuch as the Commission has only one computer and its acquisition was fully justified.

If the question relates to a specific computer application, we can cite various proposed applications which were not approved on the basis of a feasibility study which indicated that the proposed system could not be justified from the standpoint of costs, benefits to be derived, the present state of the art or the need to use a computer to perform the specific function. Among these would be a full text legal retrieval system, motor carrier index, automated work measurement system for our printing plant, recordation of lien documents and a disposal schedule for tariffs.

44. Assuming the use of a computer has been fully justified by a proper study, are there procedures for determining whether the requirement can be satisfied by using (sharing) equipment already installed in your Agency? Will you describe the procedure?

Since the Commission has only one computer all computer systems are run in-house. In rare instances where a very powerful computer is needed to process a specific task we have made use of computers at the David Taylor Model Basin and the Harry Diamond Laboratories (formerly the Bureau of Standards).

45. To what extent have you been successful in getting the users to share equipment instead of acquiring their own?

Since we have one centralized computer no consideration would be given to a user acquiring his own computer.

46. Do you review the GSA lists of available excess equipment before going to the open market to acquire equipment?

GSA lists of available excess equipment are always checked before going to the market to acquire equipment.

47. Who makes the determination that excess equipment can or cannot do the job?

The final determination that excess equipment can or cannot do the job is made by the Managing Director.

48. What has been your experience in making use of excess equipment?

In one instance we were successful in obtaining 500 surplus magnetic tapes at a savings to this Commission of \$10,000. In other instances the specific piece of hardware we sought was not available or what was available was not compatible with our existing configuration or required extensive repairs.

49. Assuming it is necessary to acquire equipment from the commercial market, do you normally invite all qualified suppliers to submit proposals. What are the exceptions?

We make it a firm practice to solicit all qualified suppliers when ADP equipment is acquired. For example, we solicited proposals from 20 manufacturers at the time we acquired our present computer.

50. Who makes the final selection of equipment, and on what basis is the decision made?

The final selection of equipment is made by the Managing Director with the approval of the Chairman.

The basis used for selection of equipment is a combination of the following factors:

- (1) Ability of the bidder to meet minimum specifications presented in our letter soliciting bids.
- (2) Ability of the bidder to successfully run the benchmark problems that were made available to all interested bidders.
- (3) Comparison of run times on benchmark problems.
- (4) Critical review and evaluation of all proposals.
- (5) Comparison of cost to total "through-put" of the interested bidders.

The interested bidder must show the ability to meet the requirements of numbers (1) and (2) before numbers (3), (4), and (5) are evaluated.

51. Describe your program for evaluating the actual results of computer use against the results anticipated when the use of the computer was approved.