

Yes, there are. Once the requirement has been established, the administrations are required to attempt a solution by sharing and provide complete documentation when both agencywide and Government-wide sharing cannot solve the problem. Sharing is also addressed again during the review at the secretarial level. Also each administration participates in the Government-wide ADP sharing exchange program.

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

We have had very good success in consolidating and sharing of ADP facilities by our administrations. For example:

(1) Data processing facilities of Coast Guard and FAA have been consolidated in Honolulu at an annual saving of about \$22,500 per year.

(2) FAA is time sharing with Coast Guard in New York, thereby obviating the need for purchasing outside services.

(3) There is a technical feasibility for FHWA to perform data processing for Coast Guard in San Francisco. We are now attempting to work out a modest augmentation of the FHWA configuration so that this installation can act as a service bureau for other agencies in downtown San Francisco under the general auspices of GSA.

(4) The FAA has assumed monitorship of the GSA time-sharing program in Alaska. The technical feasibility of FAA to use the Alaska Railroad's computer in Anchorage has been established if a moderate augmentation of the Alaska Railroad configuration can be effected. Certain legal and funding problems are being addressed.

(5) It has also been possible to arrange for all data processing requirements of the NTSB and OST to be met with the facilities of the Coast Guard, FAA, and FHWA.

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

Yes. The excess equipment lists are addressed twice: (1) during the initial systems study, and (2) during the equipment selection process.

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

Except for the very small systems which our administrations can approve, the evaluation is made at the secretarial level.

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

As a new department, none at all. However, when excess equipment was not available from GSA, one of our administrations did save \$43,000 by negotiating for used equipment with the manufacturer using the Federal Supply Schedule as a guide. It was reported in our initial submission of BOB Circular A-79 report on ADP equipment.

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?

Yes. The only exception has been an interim procurement on a lease basis to augment a system until a full systems study could be made, to support a competitive RFP. In this case, all manufacturers were called in, the situation explained, and they accepted.

To improve the competitive climate with DOT, the Data Systems Division has inaugurated a program of systematic briefings of ADP managers throughout DOT by all principal manufacturers so that full range of what's on the market will be known. Control Data and Univac have given briefings to date.

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

We have drafted procedures for selection by a board composed of knowledgeable individuals from throughout DOT. Their recommendations are then presented to the Assistant Secretary for Administration for a final approval. It is made on evaluation of 5 major areas: (1) software, (2) vendor support, (3) technical characteristics, (4) systems performance, and (5) cost. The system that is evaluated to be the most advantageous to the Government is the one chosen.

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

There is a continuous monitorship at the secretarial level. However, we have under development a more formalized approach using a detailed questionnaire.

52. In general, have your computers produced the benefits that were expected?

Yes.