

selection of a computer but should be adequate to identify the type, nature, and scope of the data processing workload involved.

2. *Manufacturer's proposals.*—

(a) *Solicitation.*—Except as qualified by "b" and "c" below, all interested manufacturers will be invited to submit proposals to show how their equipment would meet the data system specification. A letter inviting such proposals shall contain the following statement:

"The U.S. Government does not intend to award a contract solely on the basis of any response made to the request for proposals or otherwise pay for the information solicited or obtained. The information obtained will be utilized in determining the suitability of equipment following which procurement will be initiated in accordance with GSA schedules or subsequent contractual action, as appropriate."

A reasonable time interval shall be allowed for development of manufacturer's proposals. This time interval shall be a minimum of 60 days for medium or large computers. Only the most urgent operational requirement will support a shorter response time.

(b) *Punched card equipment.*—

(1) In view of the considerably less intricate nature of punched card equipment, technical judgment may be substituted for formal solicitation of proposals, provided full and impartial consideration is given to all competitive equipment in this class.

(2) The senior ADP policy official within each military department and defense agency (whose designation has been provided for under reference (a)) shall determine the level and degree of control required for adequate selection processes as they pertain to punched card type equipment. Specific determinations, as required, will be furnished by the ASD (I & L) in questions involving classification of equipment as punched card or ADP.

(c) *Exceptions to written proposals.*—

(1) The senior ADP policy official of each military department, the National Security Agency, Defense Supply Agency, Defense Atomic Support Agency, Defense Communications Agency, and Defense Intelligence Agency may approve certain exceptions to the requirement for formal solicitation of proposals if the facts are clear and unmistakable that such action is warranted and would be in the best interests of the government. This authority is limited to the following conditions:

(a) Addition or replacement of input and output devices which do not involve modification of central processor circuitry.

(b) Alteration of installed central processors to obtain immediate improved processing speed and equipment efficiency without reprogramming.

(c) Acquisition of computers to be used exclusively for peripheral support of a larger computer complex where program compatibility is required.

(d) Acquisition of equipment for applications involving the national interest where the systems specifications would require disclosure of sensitive cryptologic information, sensitive methods of processing, or would otherwise compromise security. Technical judgment in the selection of ADPE may be substituted for the formal solicitation to preclude such disclosures.

(e) The movement or modification of ADPE configurations, the need for which has been occasioned by the transfer of jurisdictional control of the applicable activity between bureaus or major commands, may be authorized at the discretion of the senior ADP policy official, provided that the category and use of the equipment will be in accordance with the previously approved program for the bureau or major command.

(2) The senior ADP policy officials identified in (c) (1) above will determine whether the basic intent of providing equal and fair opportunity to all interested vendors has been effected by the exception submitted for approval action. Documentation to support each exception from formal solicitation of proposals will be maintained in a central location designated by the above senior ADP policy officials for reference purposes as required.

(3) Exceptions to competitive selection not provided for above will require approval of the Office of the Secretary of Defense prior to equipment acquisitions. Requests for authority for such exceptions fully substantiated by supporting data will be submitted to the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Installations and Logistics).