

National Radio

ADDITIONAL BASELINE TO INTERFEROMETER
Astronomy Observatory

MEMO No. 143
Green Bank, West Virginia

To: Monterville Project Group

August 10, 1981

From: R. K. Moore

Subject: Meeting to Discuss Results of Antenna RFP, etc.

Present in Green Bank: J. Coe, R. Weimer, L. Howell, D. Madron, J. Ralston, D. Hovatter, R. Fisher, F. Crews, S. Smith, R. Lacasse, R. Moore and Bill Klepczynski, USNO.

Present in Charlottesville: H. Hvatum, W. Meredith, J. Marymor, G. Peery.

Meeting was called by R. Fisher to discuss response to GB-RFP-189, August 6.

Requests for proposal were sent to 10 vendors (reference memo #139). We received two letters of no interest (Ford Aerospace, Boeing Co.). Four firms submitted proposals (ESSCO, TIW, SA, RSi). One firm, E-Systems, failed to respond because they alleged not to receive the RFP. They were asked to confirm this in writing and we received their letter this date. Three firms did not reply (Raytheon, Rockwell, GTE).

R. Fisher asked G. Peery to summarize the responses from a technical viewpoint. G. Peery said that he considered three of the proposals responsive (RSi, TIW, SA) and that all three had basically the same antenna. Specific prices were not discussed. First review indicated that TIW may have low bid. However, this can not be definitely established until the evaluation committee has completed its work. J. Marymor requested that potential contractors not be contacted during the evaluation process.

R. Fisher stated that all pricing quoted by potential suppliers was proprietary and should not be discussed by the committee except in the evaluation process. At this point the committee was established and consists of the following: Technical - R. Fisher, G. Peery, F. Crews, L. Howell, J. Ralston. Management/Business - J. Marymor, R. Fleming, D. Hovatter, R. Moore. R. Fisher stated he wanted a meeting of the technical committee in two weeks.

A scoring system for the evaluation committee was discussed by J. Marymor. R. Fisher stated he thought G. Peery's system appeared adequate for technical evaluation. J. Marymor will send over the evaluation system used for VLA for possible use. It was agreed that the final score would be weighted 70% technical and 30% business.

R. Fisher and H. Hvatum will further discuss potential conflict of manpower requirements between 12 meter and the baseline extension projects. Rick to send memo to H. Hvatum with projected manpower requirements and an updated flow chart.

R. Moore and S. Smith reported on land acquisition and site. Two sites have been found suitable from a line of sight viewpoint. Site preparation costs for the second site are being computed. Negotiations currently underway with Grafton Coal Company, the owners, concerning possibility of leasing the second site from them.

J. Coe reported that reflector for upgrading of 45' link had been ordered and would be installed this fall. Maintenance Division is preparing the site on Observatory property. Coe continuing on plans for new link to Monteville site.

Bill Klepczynski and W. Meredith reported on computer programming. Stated they hoped to obtain services of George Conant to help on this program. Conant has not definitely committed himself. It was indicated that funds were in the budget estimates to cover this work.

D. Hovatter stated that all property purchased for this project would be appropriately identified. He will prepare a numbered memo on procedure and account numbers. Don noted that funds had not been placed in our account for the project as yet. Bill Klepczynski said a total of 820K had been transferred. 400K additional scheduled for transfer after 1 October 81.

At this point there was some discussion concerning the concrete pads and who would install them (maintenance division or contract). R. Moore stated that we would have to cross that bridge when labor requirements became clear in supporting both the 12 meter and Navy antenna projects. Contracts will be used if manpower is short.

R. Fisher stated that he would personally impart the first round financial results of the RFP exercise to Bill Klepczynski so that he could discuss them with the USNO upon his return. At this point Bill was asked for his general feel of the situation assuming that the low satisfactory bidder was 20-25% over budget for the antenna. Bill stated that USNO would have to consider alternatives and named as examples the following:

- Reconsider moving 85-3
- Find a suitable surplus dish
- Try and intercept a 60' dish being transferred by U.S. Coast & Geodetic
- Build a dish from scratch using materials from our reworked 12 meter
- Use 85-3 in a VLBI mode and give up remainder of Interferometer system
- Look at other systems for obtaining data and compare cost effectiveness
- Scrap the baseline extension project

Bill will discuss the matter with his people and get back in touch with us in two weeks or so.

R. Fisher stated the next full meeting would be in early September -- to be announced.

RKM/baw

Approved by R. Fisher