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104, RD-107) August 31, 1956

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Subject: Contract RD-107  
Task Order #3

Dear Sir:

Since the receipt of a fully executed copy of the referenced Task Order in early May 1956, work has been progressing on the VHF Ferrite Antenna project. In our proposal for this work ( [redacted] dated January 1956) Phase A was indicated to be of approximately four (4) months duration. During the past week, a telephone call was received from your office, inquiring into how we were progressing toward our delivery schedule, and requesting that information on sensitivity, gain, patterns, spurious response, and selectivity curves be included in our study and report.

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We feel it is desirable to indicate here, the schedules we are working under and the scope of work we intend to pursue. The original specifications on this work were very loose, essentially calling for twenty (20) narrow band units, tunable over a calibrated spectrum of 50 to 200 megacycles with a selectivity of approximately five (5) megacycles. Since commencing work, considerably more information than was originally to be furnished has been verbally requested. While this is desirable information, it is considerably beyond the scope of the originally proposed work of Phase A. Also at the request of your office, we have changed the dimensions of the carrying case, after completing same, from 2" x 2" x 6" to 1 3/8" x 2 1/2" x 6". There was no specification on the tuning mechanism, and we originally proposed the use of a helipot dial which was entirely adequate for calibration purposes. Your office now feels, however, that it does not produce the most desirable package. We, therefore, constructed three (3) variations of tuning mechanisms and demonstrated these to your Project Engineer. Thus, instead of getting a reaction on a more desirable configuration after the delivery of the twenty (20) units, we have been making periodic changes in accordance with your office's requests.

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In consideration of the above factors, we expect to accomplish the following schedule for delivering the twenty (20) narrow band and ten (10) wide band units called for under Phase A:

1. One tunable narrow band unit in 1 3/8" x 2 1/2" x 6" package with micrometer tuner available for demonstration with frequency calibration, but no other data on September 12, 1956. (A 2" x 2" x 6" model with micrometer tuning is available at the present time.)
2. Ten units in 1 3/8" x 2 1/2" x 6" package with micrometer tuning with frequency calibration available for delivery on October 8, 1956.
3. Nine tunable narrow band units in the 1 3/8" x 2 1/2" x 6" package with micrometer tuning and frequency calibration available for delivery on October 26, 1956.
4. One tunable narrow band unit in the 1 3/8" x 2 1/2" x 6" package with micrometer tuning with frequency calibration, sensitivity curve, selectivity curves, antenna gain curve, and antenna patterns will be available by approximately December 1, 1956. Some of these measurements are dependent upon obtaining the use of more adequate VHF antenna measuring facilities than are available at our plant at the present time. Negotiations are underway to obtain the use of a radio darkroom. The sensitivity, selectivity, gain, and patterns will not be measured on a continuous basis, but rather at selected frequencies in the band 50 to 200 megacycles. If feasible, some measurements will be made on spurious responses in the band 1 megacycle to 1000 megacycles, although it is not visualized as being within the scope of Phase A (or Phase B) to make measurements of the spurious response over the band 1 megacycle to 1000 megacycles.
5. Ten wide band units 1" x 1 1/2" x 6" available on October 26, 1956.

Although some of the additional information and changes, requested verbally by your office at this time, was intended to be included in Phase B, many of these changes are not within the scope of work we proposed to undertake in either Phases A or B. For this reason, there is some likelihood that additional costs above and beyond those provided by the referenced Task Order will have to be made.

It is suggested that at the next progress review meeting we discuss the consequences of this additional work on program schedules and costs.

Very truly yours,

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