

IN CONFIDENCE

20th July, 1959

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NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH IN NUCLEAR SCIENCE

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Main Pole Pieces for NIMROD

Note by the Chairman of the Project Committee

1. Specification P.S. 131.019 for the main polepieces was issued on 20th February 1959. Each polepiece consists essentially of a stack of about 450 steel laminations, assembled with adhesive and insulation, and weighing about half a ton.

640 of these polepieces will be required.

2. On the basis of extensive enquiries made during the past year, six firms were selected as potentially competent and willing to tender. Replies were received on 22nd May, 1959:

English Electric Co.	£219,354
" " "(alternative)	£226,077
Richard Thomas and Baldwin	£232,088
" " " "(alternative)	£340,332
Vickers Armstrong (Aircraft)	£384,635
General Electric Co.	£627,895
De Havilland Propellers	Declined

The alternative offers from English Electric and Joseph Sankey & Sons refer to alternative sources of supply of the steel sheet required for polepiece manufacture.

3. Discussion

- 3.1 English Electric

The English Electric offer differs from the specification in several respects. In general, however, the offer appears sound, showing evidence of careful preparation and technical competence.

Detailed discussions have been held with the firm, with the result that some of the discrepancies and omissions have been rectified. Their amended offer is considered to be technically acceptable.

The effect on price is as follows:

Original total	£219,354
Amendments	<u>£ 7,605</u>
Revised total price	<u>£226,959</u>

- 3.2 Richard Thomas and Baldwin

This offer contains two major and completely unacceptable departures from the specification. Moreover the offer is generally of a very poor technical standard. Much of the technical information asked for is either omitted or very sketchily treated. No further consideration of this offer is contemplated.

- 3.3 J. Sankey and Sons

This offer is generally sound and acceptable. The breakdown of costs has been used to adjust the price in order to make it directly comparable with the amended English Electric price:

Amended price(estimated) £293,000

3.4 Vickers Armstrong (Aircraft)

This offer was technically the best received. No significant price amendments are necessary for comparison with the amended E.E.offer.

3.5 General Electric Co.,

This offer was not analysed in any detail. The price breakdown indicates excessive overhead costs.

4. Possible future amendments

Some of the manufacturing techniques involved are novel, and amendments must be expected to become necessary as experience is gained during the early stages of the contract. Other amendments may arise from the continuing design and test programme at Harwell. It is expected with fair confidence that the final cost will not exceed £250,000. This is within the sum allowed for the main pole pieces in the approved estimates.

5. Recommendation

Authority is sought for a contract to be placed with the English Electric Company at a fixed price of £226,959 as the basis of their amended tender.

D. W. Fry
Chairman, Project Committee