

30th January, 1963.

NI/GP/63/3

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH IN NUCLEAR SCIENCE

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Stores Accommodation

Note by the Secretary

Receipts and Despatch of Stores

1. It has become increasingly apparent that the accommodation and facilities provided for the receipt, checking, packing and despatch of stores at the Rutherford Laboratory are now quite inadequate. These facilities are provided in the lower ground floor of Building R.1 (2,250 square feet of space) which also serves as the detailed issue store for the whole of the Laboratory except the P.L.A. This accommodation is adequate in size and design for the latter purpose only.

2. The receipts and despatch section of the stores organisation is very overcrowded; there is poor road access for vehicles, no unloading bay, little space for the unpacking and checking of goods and no storage space for goods awaiting delivery to, or collection by, the user. Accommodation for staff progressing receipts is inadequate. To provide adequate accommodation for this service and reasonable working conditions for the staff, a floor area of about 4,000 square feet is required.

Metal Stores

3. It has also become necessary to review the arrangements for the supply and cutting of metals. This service is provided at present by the A.E.R.E. They have found it increasingly difficult to cope with our requests and have urged us to provide our own facilities. Our demands now amount to one-fifth of the total demand on A.E.R.E. and may be expected to increase both in volume and urgency when NIMROD is commissioned. The A.E.R.E. would prefer not to extend the organisation to deal with this increased demand and, indeed, are most reluctant to continue to provide the present service. We have suggested that on grounds of economy in the use of public funds, there is a case for expanding the A.E.R.E. facilities rather than creating an entirely new metal store at the Rutherford Laboratory. This suggestion has been carefully considered by the A.E.R.E., but they say that it is more economical to provide metal stocking and cutting facilities locally when the demand reaches the level which ours has reached, and that they would certainly plan to set up such local facilities if the Rutherford Laboratory were part of the A.E.R.E. The reason is that when cutting is done by the A.E.R.E. main store, the transportation and the documentation and recording of each individual issue makes a tremendous amount of work, which would be greatly reduced by the issue of stocks of full lengths or sheets of metal.

4. On other than economic grounds, there is every advantage in having metal holding and cutting facilities on the spot. Further, a large and increasing number of Rutherford Laboratory staff do not have passes to A.E.R.E. and so cannot readily go there themselves to fetch items which they want urgently. The demand and need is for simplified procedures and a speedy service to users in the Laboratory and to outside manufacturers. This can best be achieved if the facilities are under our own control and supervision. About 4,000 square feet of space will be required to provide the service.

Heavy Plant Store

5. The present heated covered storage at the Rutherford Laboratory is in Building R.24 (Plant Store); a floor area of 14,000 square feet and height to eaves of 14 ft. Full use of the volume of this store, for the kind of plant and equipment to be held, is being improved by the construction of mezzanine flooring and additional racking. However, after these improvements the space available will still be inadequate to store the equipment temporarily out of use from the rigs and beam lines in the Experimental Areas and Heavy Duty Laboratory. After a strict critical review of the requirements, it has been concluded that a total additional heated and covered area of 10,000 square feet is required for this purpose, serviced by a 30 ton crane with a minimum height of floor to hook of 15 feet.

Recommendations

6. It is recommended that a new building be provided, with a floor area of 18,000 square feet, to accommodate a metal store with cutting facilities, a stores receipts and despatch section and a heavy plant store; together with adequate crange, racking, cutting equipment, essential mechanical and electrical services and roadworks, and a vehicle for distribution of stores and cut metals.

Provisional Estimate of Cost

7.	£
Building and Civil	52,000
Cranage	14,000
Cutting Equipment	4,000
Racking	1,000
Vehicle	1,800
Externals	10,000
Mechanical and Electrical Services	9,000
	91,800

plus fees of either £8,500 or £12,800 depending on whether or not Package Contract action is taken.

Provision in Estimates

8. The expenditure would fall in 1963/4 and 1964/5. The proposed building would combine three comparatively minor requirements which were not separately noted in the estimates (NI/GP/62/28). The estimated cost is in fact rather greater than could be found from the provision for "minor building items", but the difference can be found from small changes in the requirements for other capital schemes.

9. The Committee are asked to give approval in principle to the proposals in this paper to permit the preparation of detailed plans and estimates.