

# MEETING OR CONTACT REPORT

Date of Report: July 9, 1959

**Organization & Location:**

Lawrence Radiation Laboratory  
Livermore, California

**Date:** June 30, 1959

**Reported By:** D. V. Newton

**Project:**

STRETCH Project Review

**Department:** Systems Release  
and Analysis

**Follow-up Date:**

**PERSONNEL PARTICIPATING:**

(Place asterisk next to those on  
distribution list. Other distribu-  
tion show at end of report)

IBM -

\*Mr. S. W. Dunwell, Poughkeepsie  
\*Dr. H. W. Kolsky, Poughkeepsie ←  
\*Dr. D. V. Newton, White Plains  
Mr. R. L. Kocher, Oakland  
Mr. L. C. Hubbard, Western Region  
Mr. C. D. Thimsen, District #16  
Mr. T. McDonnell, Oakland

Radiation Laboratory -

Dr. S. Fernback  
Mr. J. S. Norton  
Mr. W. F. McNaughton  
Mr. R. Von Holt  
Mr. D. Munger  
Mr. T. Kishi  
Mr. R. Brousseau  
others

The meeting was held in two sessions. During the morning, Mr. Dunwell gave a progress report on the STRETCH project, and Dr. Kolsky answered questions of a technical nature. At lunch Messrs. Dunwell, Kolsky and Newton met with Messrs. Fernback, Norton and McNaughton, at which time prices and detailed specifications of the STRETCH system were given.

Personnel from the Radiation Laboratory had previously received a Preliminary Manual of Operation on STRETCH and gave evidence of having studied it to a considerable extent. There was much interest in the parallel Disk File. Questions also arose concerning the detailed operation of "look-ahead" and timing considerations.

Physical planning characteristics of STRETCH seemed to be of significant importance. When informed that space, air conditioning and power requirements were in the same ballpark as the 704 requirements, they were visibly surprised and impressed.

Mr. Dunwell invited Dr. Fernback and his associates to visit Poughkeepsie to see the present state of construction of the system. They seemed to react quite favorably to this invitation and even suggested it take place early in August. If they make this trip, this proves their interest in STRETCH is more than just curiosity. Dr. Fernback asked if we would help them time a sample problem, perhaps with the use of a 704 simulator. Of course, we agreed and the Oakland office is following through.



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No visible reaction to the price of the STRETCH system seemed evident. Considerable interest was expressed in maintenance agreement costs and spare parts requirements. It is our opinion that they wanted answers to these questions in order to compare our program with their LARC contract.

The only reference to LARC was made by Jim Norton when he remarked that the building will be ready in October 1959, and that LARC will be installed in mid-November. At first thought their interest in STRETCH doesn't make too much sense in view of their plans to install LARC. However, they are in competition with Los Alamos and computer capability plays an important role in this competition. With Los Alamos getting a STRETCH in May 1960, the Radiation Lab will be in rather a poor position with just a LARC. They lost their advantage through repeated delays of LARC. If the Radiation Lab cancelled the LARC and installed a STRETCH, then they are in a "me too" position and at the same time, lose the chance to take advantage of a very low price on the LARC. However, if they installed the LARC and ordered a STRETCH, their competitive position will be quite strong. Further strength is given to this argument by unofficial talk around Los Alamos about ordering a second STRETCH.

*D. V. Newton*

D. V. Newton

DVN:ap

cc: Mr. S. L. Lida, White Plains  
Mr. R. E. Merwin, Poughkeepsie  
Mr. D. W. Sweeney, Poughkeepsie