

Box 27
folder 20

Frigate processor, 1984-1985

Digital Equipment Corporation records
Engineers' papers: Mike Uhler papers: VAX development recor
X2675.2004, Box 27 102749950

1 of 3



+-----+
| d i g i t a l | I n t e r o f f i c e M e m o r a n d u m
+-----+

To: Distribution Date: 8-APR-85
From: Reid Brown
Dept: DECwest Product Management
Ext.: (206) 451-3755 Loc.: ZSO
ENet: WILBUR::BROWN

Subj: Frigate Phase 0 / Technical Review

Enclosed, you will find the following plans for Frigate:

- o Frigate System Business Plan
- o Frigate Project Plan
- o Frigate Field Service Impact Statement
- o Frigate Manufacturing Impact Statement

There will be a combined Frigate Phase 0 / Frigate Technical Review, to be held:

FRIGATE PHASE 0 / TECHNICAL REVIEW

DATE: Tuesday, April 30, 1985
TIME: 8:30 - 4:30
PLACE: DECwest Engineering
Bellevue, WA.

The day will be roughly divided in half, with the Phase Review in the morning, and the Technical Review in the afternoon.

FRIGATE STATUS

For the past nine months, DECwest has been working on the design of a mid-range VAX system code-named Frigate. Frigate is a follow-on product to Nautilus, providing enhanced performance via a new design coupled with multiprocessing (up to four processors). For more detail, refer to the project and business plans.

Recently, DECwest was rechartered to architect, design and build machines in a new product space. Therefore, DECwest must discontinue work on Frigate after Phase 0. It is hoped that the groundwork laid down for Frigate by DECwest will form a foundation, which other groups can use, to more effectively design and build mid-range VAX systems.

FRIGATE MARKET & PRODUCT REQUIREMENTS

It is normally appropriate to use Phase 0 to define the market needs for a product, and identify the product characteristics required to meet those needs. This is, however, more true of new markets and products than traditional mainstream business.

Frigate was targeted from the beginning to be a standard mid-range VAX system. It was intended to replace high-end 750s up through top-of-the-line 8600 and Nautilus systems. In short, Frigate represents the natural evolution of mid-range systems over time, offering ever-increasing performance at an ever-decreasing cost per MIP.

The majority of the Phase 0 effort for Frigate has been concerned with what would normally be Phase 1 activities for other projects - architecting the system, studying design alternatives, evaluating ways to reduce costs and/or increase performance, and so on.

We therefore intend to hold a Phase 0 Review for Frigate which will, in fact, cover many of the items normally considered at a Phase 1 review.

We want the technical review portion of the meeting to appeal to VAX system designers and architects who might not otherwise bother with a phase review. For its part, the phase review will present the business and project aspects of Frigate simply, in a straightforward manner - in essence, a statement of our views on how much it should cost and how long it should take to build future mid-range VAX systems. We welcome your comments and discussion on the enclosed plans, whether you can attend the meeting or not.

Within two weeks, we will mail a final meeting agenda and update you on any last minute details. Note that we are preparing an additional document on design / implementation alternatives considered during the Frigate planning. We will make this document available at the review.

<>

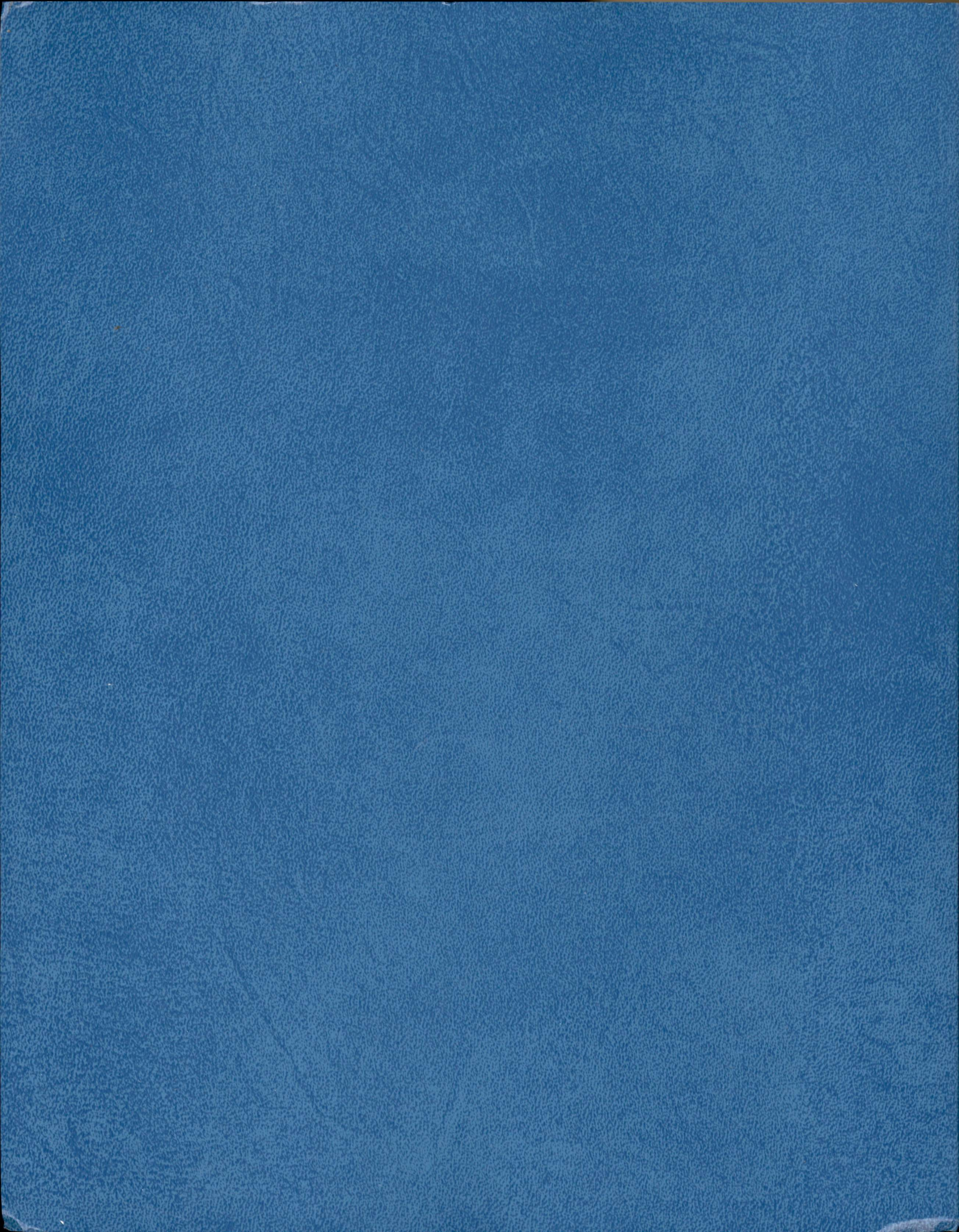
**HARDBACK BOOK-
CONTENTS NOT
SCANNED**

Manufacturing Goals
Goals
Business Goals
Ship to Customer Product Strategy, 1-3
Highlights, 1-4
Product Strategy Summary, 1-5
At Exit From Phase 0

Frigate System Business Plan



DIGITAL EQUIPMENT CORPORATION



**HARDBACK BOOK-
CONTENTS NOT
SCANNED**

Processor System, 1-7
ston
ent Costs, 1-11
re and Technology, 1-11
ture, 1-11
ogy, 1-11

Frigate Project Plan

At Exit From Phase 0



DIGITAL EQUIPMENT CORPORATION

