MINUTES OF MEETING 66-3

AIR FORCE MOL POLICY COMMITTEE

Friday, May 20, 1966

Room 4E871, Pentagon

Attendance:

Committee:

Hon. Harold Brown, Secretary of the Air Force, Chairman
Hon. Norman S. Paul, Under Secretary of the Air Force
Hon. Alexander H. Flax, Asst. Secretary of the Air Force (R&D)
Hon. Leonard Marks, Jr., Asst. Secretary of the Air force (FM)
*General William H. Blanchard, Vice Chief of Staff, USAF
General B. A. Schriever, Commander, AFSC
Lt General James Ferguson, DCS/R&D

Secretariat:

Major General Harry L. Evans, Executive Secretary (SAF-SL)
Colonel Richard L. Dennen, Asst. to Executive Secretary (SAF-SL)

Proceedings:

1. The meeting was called to order at 0800 hours.

2. General Berg, in the introduction to the SPO briefing, stressed the view that MOL is a complete integrated system. He reiterated that the primary objective of MOL is to develop an operationally useful reconnaissance system. He stated that studies are underway in the secondary objective areas of COMINT, ELINT and ocean surveillance; but that nothing is being done on tertiary objectives of experiments.

General Berg indicated incremental increases in program costs since the August 24, 1965 program of approximately $1.5B. A major change to the baseline cost was created by inclusion of the automatic mode. "Tiger teams" have been established for the purpose of reducing both weights and costs. In addition, Evaluation/Negotiation Teams (ENT) have been established to evaluate each contractor's proposal, and to then negotiate the contract.

*Alternate for General McConnell

General Berg stressed his confidence in the SPO cost estimates, but emphasized that they included no contingencies.

3. Mr. Sampson presented a technical description of the MOL/DORIAN system, covering the following areas:

Objectives -- including the unclassified objective of determining man's capability to perform military functions in space.

System Capabilities -- ground resolution [redacted]
-- coverage 500 frames per day, 50-100 targets per day (cloud free) located anywhere on the earth.
-- mission duration 30 days.
-- repetition interval 60 days.

Mission Payload -- optical element 72 inches in diameter.
-- effective clear aperture [redacted]
-- focal length [redacted]
-- [redacted]

Payload Operating Capabilities -- acquisition and tracking scope.
-- readout 40 (1" x 1" chips) per day at approximately 1 minute to transmit each chip.
-- 1 recovery capsule of 60 pounds capacity, to bring back full take of first week's operation.
-- comparison of manned/unmanned system.
-- operations -- mission control, target coverage pattern, crew work cycle, recovery. General Schriever emphasized the fact that the Sunnyvale Control Center is much smaller than Houston.

System and Subsystem Description -- TIIIM, Laboratory, Gemini B.

Factory-to-pad Flow -- Douglas, GE, EK; complete cycle is approximately 1 year.

4. Colonel Lind covered the program costs both as estimated by the contractors and as reviewed in detail by in-house teams and the SPO. The current 9-shot baseline program was compared as follows:

Contractor	Contractor Estimates	SPO Estimates
Douglas	$ 1332M	$ 834M
McDonnell	351M	276M
Martin	458M	365M
GE	318M	239M
Other	343M	343M
Approximate Total	$ 2805M	$2058M

Considering the cost reduction items identified by the SPO and a schedule change to "Option 6" (7-shot program with first manned launch in December 1969), the SPO estimate of funding requirements is reduced to $1751M. These funds break out approximately as follow:

FY 66	FY 67	FY 68	FY 69	FY 70	FY 71
$75M	$252M	$553M	$457M	$292M	$120M

Below the line items in FY 67 were identified totalling $19M: Navy - 3; advanced studies - 10; advanced hardware - 6.

General Schriever stated that in a meeting with contractor top management, he had stressed the importance of reducing costs. Secretary Flax confirmed it has been made clear to the contractors that too high costs jeopardize program approval.

5. General Berg summarized, requested Committee concurrence in giving the briefing to DDR&E next day, and requested Committee approval of Option 6 as a firm schedule for contractor negotiation.

6. General Schriever stated that he and Secretary Flax agreed on Option 6. Secretary Brown concurred that it is the best schedule, but it requires extra money in FY 67, and there is a need to define what will be flown in the first manned flight. Secretary Flax recommended the use of the compatibility model optical sensor as the first flight sensor. This model will be available 6 months earlier than the flight model. This approach would provide an incentive to all contractors to do a "flight quality" job and to adhere to the schedule. Secretary Brown agreed. Secretary Marks noted that going to Option 6 and moving the end of the program forward would not really reduce costs; Secretary Flax agreed, but indicated the value of earlier intelligence data.

7. With regard to funding, Secretary Brown agreed that since the contractors have not submitted firm quotes, the SPO estimates should not include contingencies. The program estimate will result from contractor negotiations. General Blanchard raised the issue of FY 67 money; Secretary Brown stated that the additional $80M requested had passed only one Committee (House Armed Services). He also expressed the belief that the FY 67 estimate is still not correct within $20M. Secretary Flax expressed the concern that if additional funds were not authorized, the impact on the AF RDT&E program would be drastic.

8. The Committee review resulted in the following Program direction:

a. Proceed with the Option 6 -- 7 flights scheduled for April 1969, July 1969, December 1969, April 1970, July 1970, October 1970, January 1971. The Gemini B qualification flight to be on Flight No. 1; Flight No. 3 to be the first manned flight with the compatibility model camera-optical sensor to be fully operational; Flights 4 and 5 to be manned-automatic; and Flights 6 and 7 to be automatic.

b. No contingency to be added to the SPO cost estimate for Option 6 for purposes of presentation to DOD.

c. Upon conclusion of negotiations with contractors a firm program cost baseline will be established.

The meeting adjourned at 0930 hours.

HB

APPROVED BY
THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE

APPENDIX

MOL POLICY COMMITTEE

May 20, 1966

Other Attendees:

[redacted]

Michael I. Yarymovych, Technical Director, MOL Program

Brigadier General Russell A. Berg, Deputy Director, MOL Program

William Sampson, Aerospace Corporation

Colonel Marcel Lind, SAF-SLl

Colonel Fred H. Dietrich, SAF-SLl

Colonel Robert J. Walling, MOL Program Office

Colonel Richard C. Randall, MOL Program Office