



NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20546



17 DEC 1969

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

Honorable John L. McLucas
Under Secretary of the Air Force
Washington, D.C. 20330

Dear Dr. McLucas:

We have completed our initial examination of the applicability of the MOL developed optical technology and facilities to our Space Astronomy Program. As a result of this preliminary examination I believe it is now appropriate to initiate a limited technical feasibility study with Eastman Kodak. A work statement to accomplish this is attached. Upon your acceptance of this intent and of your willingness to execute the contract on our behalf we shall forward necessary funds. Mr. Jesse Mitchell, Director Physics and Astronomy Programs, NASA Headquarters, will serve as the senior NASA technical contact for the study. As in the related study effort with General Electric, we agree that the study with Eastman should be kept in the appropriate security system.

A separate but related matter involves storage and maintenance of the applicable hardware until we are in a position to decide on its future. We have been informed that the MOL termination schedule calls for disposition of existing equipment earlier than we can make a final decision concerning its potential utilization. To relieve this situation, NASA is willing to provide additional funds to be applied to the existing Air Force contract to accomplish the storage and maintenance for a period not to exceed April 30, 1970. We have an estimate of the costs involved and will include these funds in the procurement order.

If it is at all possible, we would very much like to have the study under contract before January 1. Since we envision a ninety-day effort, a December contract date will provide us with the study results prior to March 31. At that time, depending, of course, on the outcome of the study and other factors, we could address the policy and security questions involved and make a final determination on the remaining hardware inventory.

Sincerely,

Ernest E. Newell
Associate Administrator

Enclosure
Work Statement

~~SECRET~~

Buye 17560-69-1
This document consists of 1 page
No. 1 of 1 Copies, Series **A**
This document consists of 1 page
No. 1 of 1 Copies, Series **A**
Please return receipt to HQ
972-17-006

BYE-17560/69-1
1A
S