

~~TOP SECRET~~

Functions: NASA

B/00085

14-00000-100



THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

BYE-6789-63

28 AUG 1963

Honorable James E. Webb
Administrator, National Aeronautics
and Space Administration
Washington, D. C.

Dear Jim:

By this note I am transmitting to you the signed agreement between NASA and DOD/CIA (the latter as represented by their joint operational unit, the NRO) concerning NASA [REDACTED] programs.

I understand that the content of this agreement has been previously reviewed and modified by your office, and the present version incorporates these modifications.

I believe that with your signature we can begin to make the mechanisms of the agreement most effective tools in contributing to the vital NASA Lunar Programs.

Sincerely,

(SIGNED)
("ROS")

Enclosure

COPY 3 of 5 copies

~~TOP SECRET~~

HANDLE VIA ~~BYEMAN~~
~~CONTROL SYSTEM~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON

BYE-6789-63

DUP

28 AUG 1963

DOD/CIA-NASA AGREEMENT

ON

NASA RECONNAISSANCE PROGRAMS

1. This reconnaissance programs agreement formalises arrangements between NASA and DOD/CIA, the latter being identified throughout this paper by their joint operational unit, the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO), and recognises that NASA has a requirement to perform both unmanned and manned lunar reconnaissance operations, and will in some cases be required to test equipments in earth orbit prior to engaging on lunar operations; while NRO, by virtue of its capabilities in on-going reconnaissance satellite programs, has developed the necessary technology, contractor resources, and management skills to produce satisfactory equipments, and appropriate security methods to preserve these capabilities, which are currently covert and highly sensitive. The arrangement will properly match NASA requirements with NRO capabilities to perform lunar reconnaissance.

2. To carry out these arrangements, the following procedure will normally be employed:

After reviewing NASA stated requirements in the light of NRO DOD experience in reconnaissance technology and operations, (verifying that NRO developed technology is applicable and still considered classified above confidential) and agreeing to a set of specifications for the reconnaissance equipments, it will be the responsibility of the NRO to select a contractor, generally from among those engaged in the present covert reconnaissance programs, to develop equipments meeting these specifications in a secure and protected, or "black", fashion.

[REDACTED]

4000-3-5

~~TOP SECRET~~

HANDLE VIA ~~SECURITY~~
~~CONTROL SYSTEM~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

[REDACTED]

In general, the "white" contract will be managed in such a fashion as to provide adequate detailed information to the NASA and contractor personnel who have no special access to the sensitive payloads, to permit them to participate in design of circuitry, telemetry, interface arrangements, etc., and provide adequate weight, mass balance, space, power, thermal balance, and other environmental provisions in the vehicle carrying the reconnaissance equipments, and to maintain normal systems engineering cognizance. This vehicle will generally be provided by NASA. The actual management of the contract will be performed by a two-man team, including one man from NASA, who will be cleared for the sensitive aspects of the payloads and who will perform liaison and management guidance for the [REDACTED] program, including vehicle responsibilities, and another member from the NRO, who will manage the development of the actual flight payload (satisfying stated specifications) in accordance with security arrangements and management practices currently employed in the reconnaissance satellite program. This arrangement is to provide all essential information to the appropriate members of NASA and the contractor organizations involved in the development of the flight vehicle and reconnaissance hardware.

3. In the event that it may prove desirable for NASA to employ NRO developed vehicles (or spacecraft) for certain of these lunar reconnaissance operations, the above agreement will remain as stated except that the management of the vehicle (or spacecraft) related portion of the program may then become the responsibility of the NRO representative, rather than that of the NASA representative.

4. In order to further the development of agreed-on flight hardware, under the arrangements described above, the NASA will transfer or otherwise make available sufficient funds to the NRO [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] if NRO vehicles (or spacecraft) are involved, will also transfer sufficient funds to the NRO to provide for the vehicles

~~TOP SECRET~~

HANDLE VIA ~~BYEMAN~~
CONTROL SYSTEM

~~TOP SECRET~~

(or spacecraft) and all the necessary systems and interface engineering required for successful operation.

5. The dual management team will, among other things, define in each particular program the detailed division of responsibilities for such matters as reliability, quality control, systems engineering, cost accountability, operations, etc., in general agreement with the previous provisions.

6. The conduct of operations with these equipments will normally be primarily the responsibility of NASA, in accordance with NRO security practices jointly agreed to, including those relating to equipment handling, checkout, etc. Special arrangements will be worked out for the handling of product processing and dissemination within the NRO security practices.

7. Any reconnaissance programs required to fulfill NASA objectives (such as an unmanned lunar orbiter) which does not require performance equivalent to classified NRO developed hardware is not a subject of this agreement. Determination that a program can be open will be made jointly by the Associate Administrator of NASA and the Director of Defense Research and Engineering. NASA will implement open programs through usual management channels.

(SIGNED)
Roswell Gilpatric
for
Robert S. McNamara
Secretary of Defense

(SIGNED)
James E. Webb
Administrator, National Aeronautics
and Space Administration

~~TOP SECRET~~

HANDLE VIA ~~DYEMAN~~
CONTROL SYSTEM