

Members of the TPC(PR) Committee

Under Matters Arising from the TPC(PR) Minutes of the 32nd Meeting, paragraph 1.3, I was invited to up-date, if appropriate, the current Weapons Group Instructions on Rechargeable Projects.

I attach a draft Weapons Group Instruction for consideration.

[REDACTED]

GROUP SECRETARY

[REDACTED]  
A.W.R.E.

22nd February 1972

Distribution: -

[REDACTED]

} for information

## D R A F T

### WEAPONS GROUP PROCEDURE FOR THE APPROVAL OF DIVERSIFICATION PROJECTS

#### INTRODUCTION

Diversification projects are those outside the nuclear weapons programme but which are appropriate to the organisation, facilities and expertise required for the latter. They may be funded from the Atomic Energy Vote, by customers external to the Authority, e.g. Government Departments, public bodies, industry, or jointly by the Authority and an external customer. Since Weapons Group Instructions 3/66 and 13/66 were published there have been organisational changes in the Authority (AGN 5/67 and AGN 9/71) and in Committees reporting to the Executive responsible for determining the scale and content of research and development in the Authority. Currently the Authority Reactor R & D Committee, ARD(R), is concerned with reactor and fuel technology: the Authority Nuclear and Non-Nuclear R & D Committee, ARD(MNN), has responsibility for determining the scale and content of all research and development within the Authority other than weapons R & D and reactor and fuel technology. The latter has replaced the Authority Diversification Projects Committee as the approval authority for all projects for which a ministerial directive is required under Section 4 of the Science and Technology Act 1965. AD/CM is the Group's representative on both Committees.

The purpose of this Instruction is to clarify internal procedures for seeking approval for entering into commitments on diversification work.

#### INTERNAL PROCEDURES

Monitoring of the progress and problems arising from diversification activity is the responsibility of AD/CM as Chairman of the Diversification Policy Committee, terms of reference of which are as follows:-

- 1 To advise the TPC(PR) on matters of general significance concerning the Group diversification programme.
- 2 To review progress in the larger diversification projects.
- 3 To discuss new and potential major projects and consider the effect on Group resources.
- 4 To assist Project Managers in the co-ordination of multi-divisional projects.
- 5 To report to the TPC(PR), and generally to advise the Chairman, in his capacity as Weapons Group member of the ARD Committees, on work for the AEA and on Section 4 work.

The Minutes of this Committee are taken by the TPC(PR).

#### FINANCIAL APPROVALS

Each Division has resources allocated to it through the mechanism of the TPC(PR) reviews and the Weapons Group Finance Committee budget approvals. Heads of Departments are free, within the limits of the resources allocated to their Divisions for diversification work to initiate and approve diversification proposals, as follows:-

- 1) Section 4 work: according to the procedures and financial limits in Weapons Group Instructions 3/66 and 13/66.
- 2) Other diversification work: Departmental Heads may approve projects estimated to cost up to £25,000 cash. Above this limit a proposal must be endorsed by the Diversification Policy Committee and, if necessary, referred to the TPC(PR)? 7.

#### GENERAL

It is important to associate the Costs Branch at the earliest stage of a proposal to ensure realistic estimates of cost, acceptable contractual arrangements, and HTS as regards potential patents and design rights. Heads of Departments must also check with the Group Security Officer that prospective work will not contravene current security regulations, e.g. as regards access by customers to progress the work.

22nd February 1972