

Catalogue D, for box-file D1.

Scope: A detailed study of the requirements for the acquisition of a computer for Tube Investments (Group Services Ltd.), Walsall. Includes the results of a survey of clerical work carried out by several UK companies; predictions for future use at TI; detailed costings for a Computer Centre (capital, running, likely savings, future extension), technical appraisals of eight candidate computer systems and proposals to acquire an IBM installation. Covers the period 1955 to 1958.

Background.

These documents were donated by H G (Harry) Carpenter (1920 – 2010). After working as an electronic design engineer at TRE and at the Borehamwood Laboratories of Elliott Brothers (London) Ltd., Harry became an IT consultant. It was in this capacity that he undertook to advise Tube Investments (Group Services Ltd.).

Cat. No.	Date	Title	Description/comments
D1	1956	Proposal for a programme of work for the computing group.	12 quarto pages, written by HGC and dated 7 th February 1956. A proposal for the acquisition and use of a new automatic computing system for TI, aimed at (i) data-processing ('routine clerical operations'); (ii) statistical aids to management; (iii) operational research and theoretical studies. Includes results of a survey of clerical work carried out by several UK companies; predictions for future use; detailed costings for a Computer Centre (capital, running, future extension); illustrative example based on an IBM installation.
D1	c. 1956	Some estimates of installation and running costs of typical computing systems, with preliminary estimates of savings of clerical labour.	Large (29" x 14" unfolded) tabular comparison of data for 8 candidate computing systems, with covering explanation. Undated. Equipment includes: (a) Powers Samas electro-mechanical, including PCC); (b) two possible Ferranti Pegasus configurations; (c) an Elliott 405 installation; (d) Ferranti FPC3 (a paper design?) (d) IBM 650; (e) IBM 705; (f) 'machine X' (in confidence).
D1	c. 1956	A note on the interim and long-term plans for computing work.	Four typed quarto pages, written by HGC but including a note written by B S Kellett. Undated but deduce early 1956 (because March 1956 is the suggested date for ordering an IBM 650 computer).
D1	1957	Visit to Metro Vickers Electrical Co Ltd.	2-page quarto typed report of a visit on 6th June 1957. Interesting since it gives details of Met Vic's computer development group, the technical specification of the MV950 computer and the estimated cost and performance of each sub-unit of the new 1010

			computer then under development.
D1	1958	Visit to the Plastics Division of ICI at Welwyn Garden City.	2-page typed quarto report of a visit on 20 th February 1958. Describes the ICI study that culminated in the decision to buy an EMIDEC computer, scheduled for delivery "in about two years time" but a prototype should be available for program testing in August 1958.
D1	1958	13 b/w photographs, plus some duplicates, plus covering letter.	Most photos are 7" x 5" of modest quality, with some smaller duplicates. Amongst other topics, these images show: (a) The TI Computing Centre staff – (8 male and 16 female); (b) the console of the IBM computer (probably an IBM 650?); (c) views of punched card input/output equipment and operators; (d) views of punched card data-preparation equipment and staff; (e) view of a CRO and what is probably the maintenance engineer's room. The covering letter, dated 29 th July 1958, is from K V Henderson (TI Economics & Statistics Office) to HGC.
D1	1958	Two b/w photos	Two better-quality 6" x 7" photos of the IBM computer.
D1	1956 - 1958	HGC's Card Index collection.	30 card-index files (each 6" x 4"), with (a) names & contact-details of individuals consulted by HGC on the IT project; (b) references for relevant articles in technical journals.