

## Delivery lists and applications of Elliott 400 Series computers.

The rightmost column in the lists below shows brief details of the initial applications carried out at each computer installation. Where more details of an installation and its applications are available, a reference is made to a footnote or to the list of source documents given in section E2X5. For example, [5] indicates reference number 5 in section E2X5.

Note that there is some uncertainty about customers and dates. The information given here is a best-guess compilation of data culled from five sources, cited as references [1 to 5] in section E2X5. Although [1] and [2] are original Elliott-Automation documents, minor inconsistencies have come to light when their contents have been cross-checked in detail. Another source of potential confusion is the transfer of computers between sites when one organisation sells (or donates) a machine to another organisation. The upgrading of a site's installation by the substitution of a larger machine can also cause apparent discrepancies in the records.

### Elliott 401.

This computer, developed at the Borehamwood Laboratory of Elliott Brothers (London) Ltd. under a contract from the National Research Development Corporation, first worked in March 1953. It was exhibited at the Physical Society Exhibition in London in April 1953. It then spent the period from June 1953 to March 1954 in the University of Cambridge, where modifications and enhancements were carried out by Harry Carpenter and Chris Strachey. Following this, it was moved to Rothamsted Experimental Station near Harpenden, Herts, where it was used for agricultural research statistics until 1965. The Elliott 401 was donated to the Science Museum, South Kensington, where it is now in storage awaiting a Computer Conservation Society project to restore it to working order.

| <i>Date</i> | <i>Customer</i>                           | <i>Application and notes.</i>   |
|-------------|---|---|
| Mar 1954    | Agricultural Research Council, Rothamsted | Agricultural research statistics; also scientific and engineering computations by other organisations. Finally switched off in 1965. See [6]. |

### Elliott 402.

This computer was the re-engineered production version of the 401. Two of the delivered machines had additional hardware for implementing floating-point arithmetic; these computers were labelled 402F. The rest of the delivered machines were either known simply as '402' or as '402E'. It is believed that ten Elliott 402 computers were built. The following list represents a best guess of their initial destinations. It is known that, by the early 1960s, at least one second-hand 402E had found its way to the Agricultural Research Council at Rothamsted. See [5] for more details. An Elliott 402 cost about £27,000 in 1955.

| <i>Date</i> | <i>Model</i> | <i>Customer</i>                               | <i>Application and notes</i>               |
|-------------|--------------|---|--|
| Apr 1955    | 402 E        | Institut Blaise Pascal, Paris, France         | Research and numerical analysis            |
| Oct 1955    | 402 E        | Army Operational Research Group, West Byfleet | Operational research                       |
| July 1956   | 402 E        | Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd., Co Durham  | Operational research; molecular structures |
| May 1957    | 402 E        | Rank, Taylor and Hobson Ltd., Leicester       | Optical lens systems design                |
| Apr 1957    | 402 E        | Bomber Command, RAF High Wycombe              | Operational research                       |
| Jan 1958    | 402 E        | Elliott Bros, Borehamwood                     | Computing service                          |
| Feb 1958    | 402 F        | Ernst Leitz GmbH, Wetzlar, W Germany          | Optical lens systems design                |
| Aug 1958    | 402 E        | Rotol Propellers Ltd., Gloucester             | Propeller engineering design               |
| Sep 1958    | 402 E        | British Railways, Research Dept., Derby       | Research and statistics                    |
| ?? 1959     | 402 F        | British Railways at Wolverton, Bedfordshire   | Engineering research                       |

### **Elliott 403.**

This computer, also known as WREDAC (Weapons Research Establishment Digital Automatic Computer) was a one-off Borehamwood design which, whilst employing 400-series hardware and logic elements, was not software-compatible with other computers in the 400 series. WREDAC had a special input/output unit called WREDOC, delivered in the autumn of 1956 and designed to handle the huge amounts of bulk data that arose from guided weapons testing. WREDOC had almost as many logic cabinets (7) as WREDAC (9).

| <i>Date</i> | <i>Customer</i>   | <i>Application and notes.</i>  |
|-------------|---|--|
| Sept 1955   | Weapons Research Establishment, Salisbury, South Australia. | Analysis of Woomera guided missile trials and research [7]. See also E2Extra403. |

### **Elliott 405.**

This computer was Elliott's first serious product to enter the world of commercial and business data processing (as opposed to scientific and engineering applications). By 1956 the Elliott company had established a marketing arrangement with the British arm of the National Cash Register company of Ohio, USA. NCR Ltd. became responsible for selling Elliott 405 computers to businesses. Hence the machine was often marketed as the National-Elliott 405. In 1957 an Elliott 405 cost between £50,000 and £125,000, depending upon configuration, with an average installation costing approximately £85,000 [5].

| <i>Date</i> | <i>Customer</i>  | <i>Application and notes.</i>   |
|-------------|--|---|
| Jul 1956    | Elliott Brothers (London) Ltd. Computing Services Division, Borehamwood. Computer Maintenance Division). | Computing service bureau. (By June 1964 this had become a standby computer in the   |
| Nov 1956    | National Cash Register Co. Ltd., Marylebone Road, London, NW1  | Demonstration and computing service No. 1.  |
| Feb 1957    | City & County of Norwich, City Treasurer's Department  | Final reminders for rates, payment of accounts, expenditure analysis, water rates, income costing and loans; eventually also wages and salaries. (Replaced by a larger 405 in Oct 1961). [8]. |

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|----------|---|---|
| Sep 1957 | National Gas Turbine Establishment,<br>Pystock, Farnborough, Hants                                  | On-line data reduction in engine testing.   |
| Nov 1957 | Unilever Ltd., London   | Wide variety of experimental work including linear programming. [9]   |
| Dec 1957 | Board of Trade, Census Office,<br>Eastcote, Pinner, Middx.  | Census analysis. (Small computer?)  |
| Feb 1958 | British Insulated Callender's Cables<br>London, W12   | Railway electrification research & design work,<br>payroll, costing.  |
| Feb 1958 | Littlewoods Mail Order Stores Ltd.<br>Liverpool 23  | Mail order provisioning, inventory control. [10].   |
| Apr 1958 | Siemens (Woolwich) Ltd., London, SE18.<br>(part of AEI )  | Production Planning and control, in association<br>with NRDC. Removed when AEI took over<br>Siemens' Woolwich enterprise. This machine<br>then went in February 1962 to the Control<br>Group, Engineering Department, University of<br>Cambridge. Bits of this machine then went to<br>Forest Grammar School, Winnersh, Berks, in<br>August 1966 where it was called <i>Nellie</i> . See<br>[16] and see also E2Extra405. |
| May 1958 | Newton Chambers & Co Ltd., Sheffield.   | Payroll and stock control.  |
| Aug 1958 | Albert E. Reed & Co. Ltd., Alyesford, Kent  | Stores ledger control & accounting, payroll   |
| Oct 1958 | North Western Gas Board, Manchester   | Payroll and gas billing   |
| Oct 1958 | Legal & General Assurance Soc. Ltd.,<br>Kingswood, Surrey   | Payroll, maintaining and processing policy<br>records of group life and pension schemes.  |
| Nov 1958 | National Cash Register Co. Ltd.,<br>Frankfurt, Main, Germany  | Demonstration and computing service, civil and<br>constructional engineering calculations.  |
| Dec 1958 | General Post Office, London   | Payroll of 122,000 engineering, postal,<br>telephone, telegraph and office staff in London<br>area (more than £10 m pa); statistics.  |
| Jan 1959 | Joseph Lucas (Sales & Service) Ltd.,<br>Birmingham  | Sales statistics, order scheduling.   |
| Jan 1959 | National Cash Register Co. Ltd.,<br>(National-Elliott Computing Service No. 2),<br>Neasden, London. | Demonstration and computing service, No. 2  |
| Mar 1959 | Reckitt & Sons Ltd., Hull   | Order handling, invoicing; sales ledger, sales<br>statistics, depot stock records.  |
| Apr 1959 | National Cash Register Co. Ltd.,<br>(National-Elliott Computing Service No. 3),<br>Neasden, London  | Demonstration, training and computing service,<br>number 3.   |
| May 1959 | Courtaulds Ltd., Coventry   | Invoicing, sales ledger, sales statistics; payroll;<br>stores stock control maintenance. (This<br>machine was replaced by a larger one in Sept<br>1960 – see entry below)   |
| Aug 1959 | British Railways, Midland Region,<br>Wolverton, Bucks.  | Payroll, stores accounting, labour and material<br>Analysis. See Note (1) below.  |
| Sep 1959 | Crosse & Blackwell (Holdings) Ltd.<br>London, SE1   | Invoicing, stock control & sales statistics.<br>In 1965 or 1966 this machine was given to<br>Forest Grammar School, Winnersh, Berkshire –<br>see [16].  |
| Sep 1959 | General Post Office, London   | (Same as for machine installed Dec 1958)  |
| Oct 1959 | Elliott Brothers (London) Ltd.<br>Computing Services Division,<br>Borehamwood, Herts.               | Computing service bureau; payroll; stock<br>control   |
| Nov 1959 | National Cash Register Co. Ltd., Barrack St.,<br>Sydney, Australia.                                 | Demonstration and computing service. After<br>1962 this machine was acquired by the<br>Radio Frequency & Microwave Section of the<br>National Standards Lab. (part of CSIRO). Then<br>in 1970 this machine was donated to the   |

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|----------|--|---|
| Dec 1959 | Sumitomo Bank, Osaka, Japan  | Powerhouse Museum, Sydney, where parts of it are on display.<br>Deposit accounts, discounting of bills of Exchange, controlling variable-term loans.  |
| Jan 1960 | Associated British Picture Corporation, London   | Payroll, theatre statistics, cinema costing   |
| Sep 1960 | Courtaulds Ltd., Coventry  | (Replacing the machine installed May 1959 – see above)  |
| Dec 1960 | National Cash Register Co. Ltd., (National-Elliott Computing Service No. 4), Neasden, London | Computing service number 4. (Model 405M). This may have been the only 405M to have been delivered. Its principal difference from previous models was that it had two sets of delay line storage, giving a working store of 1024 words instead of 512. |
| May 1961 | North Western Gas Board<br>Altrincham, Cheshire  | Payroll & gas billing   |
| Jun 1961 | Newton Chambers & Co. Ltd.,<br>Sheffield   | Payroll & stock control   |
| Oct 1961 | City & County of Norwich,  | (Replacing the machine installed in Feb. 1957 – see above).   |
| Apr 1962 | Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric<br>Authority, Australia.                                      | Accounting  |

*Note (1).* This BR installation is not explicitly recorded in [2]. However, the stated overall total of 405 installations in [2] does include an extra one which could well be the BR installation. Also, *British Transport Commission (London Midland Railway)* is mentioned as an explicit Elliott 405 user at the 31<sup>st</sup> meeting of the *405 Group*, which took place at NCR's Marylebone Road headquarters in London on 11<sup>th</sup> July 1961. The total number of Elliott 405 computers built would seem to be 33.