Large Multics contract awarded

The U.S. Department of Interior, on August 10, informed Honeywell Information Systems that their 68/80 Multics Systems had been selected for installation this year at three U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) sites.

Valued at approximately $20 million, the three large-scale, dual-processor systems will be used primarily to assist the USGS in the National search for new energy assets and in the management of all U.S. In-ground oil and mineral reserves. Other applications will include use of the Multics systems' powerful interactive capability in the research and development of improved earthquake prediction techniques.

The three systems will be shipped and installed this year at Denver, Colo.; Menlo Park, Calif.; and at USGS headquarters, located in Reston, Va. It is anticipated that these systems will eventually evolve from their initial dual-processor configuration into three triple-processor 68/80 Multics systems with unusually large communications capabilities.

Bob Montes, Manager, Multics Development Project, and recently appointed acting NAO Director of Multics said, "The U.S. Geological Survey benchmark was a team effort in the truest sense. The cooperation between our FSO Multics benchmark team and our Phoenix and CISL (Cambridge Information Systems Laboratory) was the best I have ever seen on any benchmark. As an example of their total dedication, the benchmark team worked straight through the Christmas and New Year holiday periods in order to meet USGS's proposal submission date. With continuing dedication such as this, the success of Honeywell and Multics will be assured."

Bob said it was difficult to single out any particular groups or people because so many contributed. High on his list of primary contributors, however, are CEO-Phoenix's Al Berglund, Manager, Multics Software Support, and his personnel, particularly Don Mengel and Wade Myers who coordinated the benchmarks, Ed Wallman who worked on the initial conversions, and Bob Franklin who handled the communications simulation. Charlie Cigen, Manager, Cambridge Information Systems Laboratory in Cambridge, Massachusetts, also of CEO-Phoenix, and his people, Mike Grady and Robert Mullen, were instrumental in the successful sale. Ron Riedesel of the PCO Program Office, and the PCO Operations people, namely Lacy Johnson, Rich Choulard, Jerry Cahoon and Harold VanSant, were also singled out for their contribution.

Besides those singled out are the many secretaries, technicians, clerical people and others who work behind the scenes but without whom none of our successes are possible. Printout congratulates all who assisted in this major sale of our Multics systems.

More About Multics Contract

Last week Printout featured the large Multics computer systems order recently received by Federal Systems Operations from the U.S. Geological Survey. This week, Mr. Jim Pompa, Vice President, Federal Systems Operations, visited Phoenix. Printout took this opportunity to ask Mr. Pompa for additional information about the order. He said that each computer system will consist of dual Model 68/80 Multics central processors with more than a half million words of advanced technology MOS semiconductor main memory. A Honeywell DATABAT 8532 at each of the three major USGS sites will coordinate communications between 62 terminals and centralized data bases stored in the host systems.

"These sophisticated systems will operate as individual computer centers at each of the three widely separated sites and will also contain common hardware which will provide program transferability," Mr. Pompa said. "Also, Multics modularity provides USGS with a flexible growth capability to meet their unique requirements."

Mr. Pompa commented that this contract is a key one for the Multics computer systems. "These Level 6 Multics systems will be watched very closely," he said. "Their performance may very well open the doors to additional business for us. It is extremely important that we install them on-time and that they perform at the required quality level."

"I'm sure the team at Phoenix Cp will come through for us as they always have in the past," he continued. "You know, I spent part of my career here at Phoenix and I have always had a great respect for the experienced team of computer professionals here. Speaking for all of FSO, we appreciate the important support you gave us on the USGS contract and thank you again for the excellent cooperation that you have continued to provide to FSO over the years."