

ing' file

COMPUTING DIVISION

D I S T R I B U T E D C O M P U T I N G N O T E 602

VISITS

Notes on a meeting with Dr J R W Hunter and D Owen,
University of Sussex on 17 March 1982

issued by
D A Duce

2 April 1982

Distribution : R W Witty
 D A Duce
 F Chambers, Logica Ltd
 Miss G P Jones
 Investigators/Hunter, Baker, Sloman

Jim and David visited RAL to discuss a forthcoming (1 April) DCS grant application.

1. The existing DCS grant expires at the end of September 1982. By that time some of the major objectives of the grant will have been achieved but some won't, largely because it proved unrealistic to link the processors in their system by serial lines and installation of their Cambridge Ring took longer than anticipated.
2. Keith Baker is now principally interested in design tools (or VLSI) where as Jim and David want to test the system with an AI vision recognition application.
3. Jim will submit an application (on 1 April). There will be two phases, firstly to complete the work started under the existing grant (9 months - 1 year) and then to exploit the system on the AI vision problem.
4. Hardware poses a problem. At present the system contains an 11/34 for software development and 4 LSI 11/02 processor servers. The 11/02's are now too small and too slow for the application in mind. 11/23's do not seem to offer a cost effective solution. Jim's favoured solution is based on a M68000 processor server and a 'c' cross-compiler running on the 11/34. I suggested they consider PERQ. Jim will write a detailed equipment case saying what they prefer technically, but will try to add a paragraph on whether PERQ would be technically acceptable (ignoring cost). This application points to the need for a PERQ processor server.
5. They wish to retain David Owen as one of the RA's on the project. They need to make a case (ie his expertise is essential).

6. Jim submitted a control system application with Dr Peter Cawthrop, effectively to purchase a copy of Jim's system to be used in a distributed control application. The research was in control algorithms rather than DCS. The application was rejected; the office said the equipment should be borrowed from RAL. A telephone call to Wally Bray revealed it was rejected because the relationship to similar work at Oxford was not clear (Peter did his D Phil with the Oxford control group!) and a secondary reason was why couldn't they borrow equipment from RAL. I put Wally right on equipment pools!

The control grant will be resubmitted this round. Equipment is related to DCS and I need to write to Wally when the DCS decision is known.