DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL SURFACE WARFARE CENTER
CARDEROCK DIVISION

NAVAL SHIP SYSTEMS
ENGINEERING STATION
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19112-5083

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Ser 96315/038 REPLY REFER TO

MAR 27 2000

From: Commanding Officer, Naval Ship Systems Engineering Station, Carderock Division, Naval Surface Warfare Center
To: Commander, Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command Headquarters San Diego (Code PD 15Q)

Subj: POLICES FOR NOT RELEASING PERFORMANCE DATA, COMPONENT VERSUS SYSTEM TESTING AND ACCEPTABLE PRODUCT RESPONSIBILITY

1. Purpose

This letter documents the response to four policy issues that have been raised by those in the Navy fiber optic user community. These four policy issues are:

a. Request for actual performance data obtained during component qualification testing.

b. Enhanced performance requirements.

c. Use of component testing versus assembly testing.

d. Responsibility for products to conform to military specification requirements

2. Release of performance data

Actual performance data is not released for the following reason:

a. Proprietary status of actual performance data: Vendors submit test samples for testing with the agreement that actual test performance data are proprietary and the Navy's intent is to determine if the product meets specified limits on performance requirements listed in the military specification. The Navy has a good working relationship with the vendors and it is not in the interest of the Navy to violate this relationship by releasing recorded performance data.

3. Enhanced performance requirements

The Naval Surface Warfare Center, Dahlgren Division (NSWC DD) and Naval Surface Warfare Center Carderock Division, Ship Systems Engineering Station (NSWCCD-SSES) are responsible for evaluating component performance and the need for enhanced requirements. Input from individual systems and applications are an integral part of the requirement analysis process. NSWC DD and NSWCCD-SSES will work with individual programs to assess the adequacy of existing requirements and the need for components with enhanced requirements.

4. Component versus assembly test

Rationale for component testing is as follows:

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a. Representative of worst case testing: Components are tested under conditions that are based on worse case usage conditions. The test conditions used are based on detailed analysis of the defined component applications.

b. Unqualified or unapproved component usage: If unqualified or unapproved components are included in the system, then the particular configuration must be tested as a system (or sub-system).

5. Responsibility for product acceptability

The manufacturer has the responsibility to ensure that delivered QPL items conform to all requirements including performance, quality, reliability, and all other specified product characteristics. "Provisions Governing Qualification" and appendix B of DoD Instruction 4120.3-M, "Defense Standardization Program, Policies and Procedures" state the following:

a. Listing of product on a Qualified Products List (QPL) only signifies that at the item examination and test, the manufacture could make a product that met the specification requirements.

b. This listing does not relieve the supplier of its contractual, obligations to deliver product that comply with all specification requirements.

c. Does not guarantee acceptability of products delivered under a contract; and

d. Does not, in any way, relieve the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) of its contractual obligations to ensure that delivered products (including the qualified products used in the equipment) comply with all specification requirements.

6. Please direct questions or comments to the Naval Surface Warfare Center Carderock Division, Ship Systems Engineering Station (NSWCCD-SSES) point of contact for fiber optic component testing, E. Bluebond. He can be contacted by FAX: (215) 897-8509 or E-mail: bluebond@spawar.navy.mil. The Naval Surface Warfare Center, Dahlgren Division (NSWC DD) point of contact for specification requirements is G. Brown. He can be contacted by telephone: (540) 653-1579, FAX: (540) 653-8673 or E-mail: browngd@nswc.navy.mil. If product is purchased under a Navy IT-Umbrella Contract, the applicable contract officials will resolve defective product issues with the prime contractor. Initial point of contact for defective product on the ViViD contract is the Deputy Program Manager, Mr. James Bachrach. He can be contacted by telephone: (619) 524-7526, FAX: (619) 524-7398 or E-mail: bachrach@spawar.navy.mil.

J. A. DOLAN
By direction

Copy to:
SPAWAR PMW-158 (CDR Ziegler)
NSWC DD B35 (G. Brown)
SPAWAR. PMW-152 (R. Evans)
SPAWAR PD 15Q2 (J. Bachrach)
SPAWAR D632 (A. Maldonado)
SPAWAR 04N-43A (D. Zsutty)
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