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## **LAV/1/1/UK4**

Material relating to EMI, AEI and METROVIC, STC, DECCA  
and MARCONI computers

Compiled by Professor Simon Lavington

LAV/1/1/UK4

**Part 1 of 5: EMI**

1958	A case study in commercial data processing. D S Greensmith & J G Thompson.	Photocopy of an article that appeared in <i>The Computer Bulletin</i> , June/July 1958, pages 12 - 15. Discusses the data-processing requirements of Boots Pure Drug Co. Ltd. and the choice of an EMIDEC 1100 to meet these requirements. Gives figures.
1959	A transistorized magnetic core store. D Bray & A C Conway.	Published in Proc. IEE, Vol. 106, Part B, 1956. (6 pages). Bray and Conway worked for EMI.
c. 1960	Emidec 2400 data processing system. General description.	Photocopy of an 8-page A4 printed technical brochure. EMI publication ES17/1046/5M/360/BP.
1969	EMIDEC 2400s are still giving sterling service. Keith Crook.	Photocopy of an illustrated article that appeared in <i>Computer Weekly</i> , 1 <sup>st</sup> May 1969
c. 1974	2 photos (3 copies each) of the EMI speech recognition system VIP100.	The Voice Information Processor VIP100 is capable of accepting a vocabulary of up to 150 words. Press release explanation on rear of two of the b/w glossy photos.

**Part 2 of 5: AEI and METROVIC**

c. 1957                      The METROVIC 950                      Photocopy of a 17-page illustrated technical brochure, published by Metropolitan-Vickers Electrical Co. Ltd., Trafford Park, Manchester 17. Document 3000/8/57, Form 1515 superseding Form 1157, SP.7655/1.

c. 1960                      Inbuilt capacity for growth                      Four-page general pamphlet describing the AEI 1010. No document reference number.

1999, 2000                      David Edwards' (from Devizes, not D B G Edwards!) notes on the AEI 1010.                      Edwards spent from 1961 - 67 programming an AEI 1010. He gives three A4 typed pages of notes about the machine.

**Part 3 of 5: STC**

1999                      Historical notes from Don Hunter, concerning STEP 1, STANTEC 1 and STANTEC ZEBRA.                      Print-out of an e-mail and 15-page paper describing Standard Telephones Electronic Processor no. 1 (STEP 1), installed in 1956. Its name was changed to STANTEC1 and in 1959 it was replaced by the ZEBRA computer.

c. 1958                      Stantec Zebra electronic computer                      Single-page illustrated advertisement from The Computer Bulletin.

c. 1959                      Stantec Zebra electronic digital computer.                      Photocopy of a 12-page illustrated technical brochure, published by STC's Information Processing Division, Newport,

Monmouthshire.

2001 Tony Davie's comments on Stantec Zebra. Print-out of an e-mail dated 24/1/2001, describing some details of the Stantec Zebra.

**Box file UK4, part 4 of 5: DECCA.**

c. 1961 The Decca Digital Data Processor for real-time processing. Six-page illustrated brochure. Published by Decca Radar Ltd.; ref. number ZW267/1M/9.61

c. 1961 Computer magnetic tape unit Decca type 4000. Six-page illustrated brochure. Published by Decca Radar Ltd.; ref. number ZW261/3M/9.61

c. 1958 Photos and brief background to a Decca computer. Photocopies of three photos that appeared in the book *Electronic computers: principles and applications* by T E Ivall (published for Wireless World by Iliffe, London, 1956. Accompanying e-mails from John Deane and Peter Lawrence suggest that the computer shown might be the Decca C1 or C2 computer.

**Box file UK4, part 5 of 5: Marconi.**

March 1964 General description. Photocopy of pages 3 - 18 of Marconi TAC manual T5533, part 1, Section 2, Chapter 1 followed by Chapter 11 pages 18 - 26.

March 1964 TAC SR00 - 3301: TAC functional block diagram. This is Figure 101 from the above manual, covering the equivalent of three A4 pages pasted together.

July 2007 Letter from John Blackburn. Three-page covering technical letter, sent to SHL to accompany the above

		two items. John Blackburn got a TAC system working at The National Museum of Computing, Bletchley Park.
July 2007	CD of 29 photos of the TAC system at TNMOC, Bletchley Park.	
May 2004	E-mail from Arthur Young to John Blackburn	Arthur Young worked at Marconi and in 1958 was in charge of Marconi's tender to win the Fur Hat air defence project that resulted in TAC. This e-mail gives a fascinating account of the origins and development of TAC.
1949-1953	Three documents on TREAC	a). Discussion of plans, projects and general ideas. Preliminary plans for the TRE Electronic Digital Computer. A M Ulltey, pages 123 - 126 of 1949 Cambridge Conference. (b) The TRE high-speed digital computer. R H A Carter. NPL Symposium, 1953, pages 56 - 64. (c). The telecommunications Research Establishment parallel electronic digital computer. Chapter 10 (pages 144 - 160) in <i>Faster than Thought</i> , B V Bowden, Pitman, 1953.
1953	ICCE (Imperial College Computing Engine)	The design requirements of a low-cost computing machine. K D Tocher. NPL Symposium, 1953, pages 280 - 283.
1953-1956	Six documents on MOSAIC	(a) - (e): Mosaic: an electronic digital computer. Allen W M Coombs, parts 1, 2, 3a, 3b, 4. All in the Post Office EE Journal, Vol 48, pages 114, 137, 212, July & October 1955, January

1956; Vol. 49, pages 18,  
126, April & July 1956.  
(f). MOSAIC: the Ministry of  
Supply automatic computer.  
A W M Coombs. NPL Symposium,  
1953, pages 38 - 42.

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