BACK

COMPUTER CONSERVATION SOCIETY

EDSAC Replica Project Management

The overall project will be controlled and supervised by a charitable trust known as EDSAC Replica Limited. Its aims and purpose will be the construction of a replica of the Cambridge University EDSAC Computer for the benefit of computer engineers, programmers, students, historians and the general public.

It is hoped that the Trustee Board will be representative of the sponsors, the University of Cambridge and the British Computer Society.

A Management Board, including a representative of the Computer Conservation Society, The National Museum of Computing, and including the Project Manager, will supervise the day to day construction and will report to the Trustee Board.

Construction will be undertaken at the National Museum of Computing at Bletchley Park, where much similar work is now being undertaken and which has built up an impressive group of skilled volunteers. Visitors to the museum will be able to view the work as it progresses.

Given the substantial cost of the project and the considerable historical value that will attach to the result, it is important to be clear from the outset to whom the EDSAC replica belongs. During construction this will be the Trustee Board who, at a future date, will decide on the replica's ownership and where it should be sited.

Note on the Computer Conservation Society
The work will be carried out as a project of the Computer Conservation Society (CCS). The CCS is a special interest group of BCS, the Chartered Institute for IT, being governed by its Royal Charter and charitable status. The CCS is also formally affiliated to the Science Museum of London and the Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester.

The aims of the CCS include:

- To promote the conservation of historic computers and to identify existing computers which may need to be archived in the future.
- To develop awareness of the importance of historic computers.
- To develop expertise in the conservation and restoration of historic computers.
- To represent the interests of CCS members with other bodies.
- To promote the study of historic computers, their use and the history of the computer industry.
- To publish information of relevance to these objectives for the information of CCS members and the wider public.

The CCS has a track record of many successful restoration and rebuild projects, making substantial contributions in the history of British computing. These projects include the replicas of the Turing Bombe and Colossus at Bletchley Park, the Manchester University Small-Scale Electronic Machine in the Manchester Museum of Science and Industry and the restored Pegasus in theScience Museum in London. The latter is currently the world's oldest working computer, but likely to be superseded by the 1951 Harwell Dekatron Computer currently being restored in the National Museum of Computing.

Many other current projects for rebuilding, restoring or collecting hardware, and for establishing documentation and software archives are actively supported by CCS volunteers. Details of all CCS activities are accessible on the web at ***www.computerconservationsociety.org***

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FRONT

COMPUTER CONSERVATION SOCIETY

EDSAC REPLICA PROJECT

The EDSAC
(Electronic Delay Storage Automatic Calculator)

Cambridge 1949