U.S. Navy Awards Harris $12.6 Million Contract

On April 9, the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command of the U.S. Navy awarded Harris GSSD a S12.6 million contract for development of an Integrated Diagnostics Support System (IDSS). IDSS is a new concept of weapons systems maintenance.

A Win We're Ready For. Above. an April 15 briefing brought together those GSSD employees who will be working on the IDSS contract or who were a part of the proposal preparation. Right. GSSD's Vice President and General Manager Phillip W. Farmer congratulates the group on its success.

The IDSS concept incorporates methods of collecting knowledge about the weapon system and processing it in a way that resembles human reasoning. Once established. the IDSS knowledge base is used to detect and diagnose weapon system failures.

The contract is a significant one for GSSD. Harris is a leading manufacturer of Automatic Test Equipment (ATE) for maintenance and support of military equipment, and the award will assure a continuing leadership role in this field. It will also pro-vide opportunities for Harris to participate with prime weapon system manufacturers in the design of new systems. In addition, the award provides a foundation for the Division's continued sales growth.

The award comes after three years of intensive research and development by Harris. The Navy had previously awarded Harris two study contracts to determine the feasibility of this approach to maintenance. In addition, Harris had invested significant company funds in the development of this idea. "Harris will be sharing part of the cost of this contract with the Navy to show its commitment to the program and our belief that this represents the future trend of maintenance and support of weapon systems," said Manager of Business Development Hank Bierbaum.

In the next five years Harris will develop a set of software tools that will enable diagnostic procedures to be automatically generated from computer data bases. The software tools will also enable designers to assess the effect of their design decisions on maintenance. As a consequence of IDSS, ATE will become smaller. Also, more fault detection and isolation to the failed part will be done in the weapon system with the help of small portable maintenance aids. IDSS will have a far reaching effect on how weapons systems are designed in the future with GSSD playing an important role in the development of new concepts.