

Memorandum of Understanding on the arrangements for collaboration between the United Kingdom and France on research and development (London, 20 December 1957)

Caption: On 20 December 1957, the British Ministry of Defence issues a memorandum of understanding on the arrangements for collaboration between the United Kingdom and France on research and development. The aim of the arrangements described in the memorandum is to coordinate the design and production of arms by sharing experience and knowledge, providing facilities, and ensuring the full exchange of technical information between the two governments on specific projects.

Source: The National Archives of the UK (TNA). Ministry of Supply and successors: Registered Files. Western European Union (WEU): Anglo-French collaboration. 01/01/1957-31/12/1959, AVIA 65/739 (Former Reference Dep: RD/172/05).

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http://www.cvce.eu/obj/memorandum_of_understanding_on_the_arrangements_for_collaboration_between_the_united_kingdom_and_france_on_research_and_development_london_20_december_1957-en-ea9937bc-255d-40d0-800e-e81c1ec8de5b.html



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ANNEX TO
A. F. S. C. / M(57)5

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE
ARRANGEMENTS FOR COLLABORATION BETWEEN
THE UNITED KINGDOM AND FRANCE
ON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

This Memorandum of Understanding sets forth the detailed arrangements between the Government of France and Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland for co-operation on those projects in the field of research and development which have been, or may be deemed by the two Governments to be likely to achieve the aims described in paragraph 2. These arrangements will be subject to the security provisions contained in the Annex to this Memorandum.

2. The purpose of these arrangements is to ensure that the best use, for defence purposes, is made of the research and development effort available to the United Kingdom and French services by the pooling of knowledge and experience, by the exchange of technical information and by the provision of facilities in fields of mutual interest. To this end the two Governments have entered into the following understanding.

3. In respect of those projects on which both Governments may agree to collaborate, there will be a full and frank exchange of technical information and, where appropriate, close co-ordination of programmes of research and development. Either Government will arrange, on request, for representatives of the other Government to have access to establishments or other places where the research and development on agreed projects is being carried out for the purpose of obtaining a complete disclosure of information on the specific project, but to the exclusion of other activities which may be carried on at these establishments or other places.

4. If in the case of a given project, limitations on the application of the present arrangements arise, owing to commitments previously entered into by one or the other Government concerned, the Government thus committed will do everything possible, in the interests of common defence, to make possible the communication of the information necessary for the furthering of the project.

5. In general, exchanges of technical information (including books) under these arrangements will be made without payment. The sharing of costs which may arise from collaboration on any project, will be the subject of agreement between the two Governments. However, when equipments, samples, experimental components or drawings are made available, this will normally be against payment.

6. Individual projects under these arrangements shall be known as "Projects de Collaboration Anglo-Francais" (Anglo-French Collaboration Projects) (P.C.A.F. or A.F.C.P.) and may be proposed by either Government for one or more of the following purposes:-

- (a) to facilitate the exchange of information in areas of common interest;

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- (b) to facilitate the exchange of information on specific research and development projects:
 - (c) to help each other in the practical development of a project.
7. For every project which is established for collaboration, arrangements will be made for the definition of the classified aspects and the allocation to them of the appropriate security gradings.
8. If either Government wishes to collaborate in the production of items arising from joint research and development, there will be further consultation between the two Governments.
9. So far as information protected or capable of being protected by patent rights is concerned:-
- (a) neither Government will be entitled, without further specific agreement (which may include payment) to use technical information which is already subject to patent rights:
 - (b) the recipient of the information will not use or disclose it in any manner likely to prejudice the rights of the owner to obtain patent protection in respect thereof, unless the owner has first given his formal agreement to such use or disclosure:
 - (c) if the recipient of any information wishes to use or disclose it in any manner likely to prejudice the rights of the owner to obtain patent protection in respect thereof, and notifies the owner to this effect, the owner, if he intends to seek patent protection for it will do so as promptly as possible and inform the recipient of any patent application filed thereon.
10. Neither Government will be entitled under these arrangements to receive information which is the property of a commercial organisation without the consent of the owner. If, however, either Government regards the communication of such information as important for the success of any project, both parties will do all they can to arrange with the commercial organisations concerned for the information to be communicated.
11. Neither Government will cease work on any project or part of a project to which these arrangements apply without first giving notice in writing to the other Government; and making such arrangements as are practicable for that Government to continue the work if it so desires.
12. Either Government may during the course of the work on any project propose that certain information shall be deemed to be "Combined". The information shall not, however, be so designated unless both Governments agree. Such information will not be released to third parties without the consent of both Governments.

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13. The Government of the other member States of the Western European Union who are willing to participate and in a position to contribute, may participate in particular projects provided that they accept arrangements similar to those contained in this Memorandum, and subject to the agreement of both Governments.

14. Either Government may terminate the arrangements set forth in this Memorandum by giving to the other six months' notice in writing. In this event, however, information exchanged under these arrangements will continue to be safeguarded in accordance with the security provisions contained in the Annex to this Memorandum and the additional provisions described in paragraph 9 of this Memorandum.

Signed

Le General de Corps
d'Armee Lavaud
Conseiller Technique,
Ministre de la Defense Nationale
et de Forces Armees.

Signed.....

(C. WHEELER)
Under Secretary,
United Kingdom Ministry of Defence.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, S.W.1.

20TH DECEMBER, 1957.

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