

GIDEP HISTORY

GIDEP began in 1959 as the Interservice Data Exchange Program (IDEP). IDEP was created by mutual agreement of the three Military Services (Army, Navy and Air Force) in an effort to reduce duplicate qualification and environmental testing being conducted for the Military Services by various contractors on the same parts, components and materials. At its inception, IDEP covered only the ballistic missile effort of U.S. defense programs.

Initially, IDEP consisted of one Data Interchange -- the Technical Data Interchange. Each service maintained their own management offices. The Army's office was at Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, AL; the Navy's office was at the Naval Ordnance Laboratory, Corona, CA; and the Air Force's office was located at Space Systems Division, El Segundo, CA. The government administration of IDEP was through a Policy Board composed of one command level individual appointed from each of the sponsoring services. In addition, IDEP began a cooperative partnering with industry and a Contractors Advisory Board was formed in accordance with the approval of the Joint Material Commanders. As the information needs of the U.S. defense industries changed, IDEP was expanded to include other types of data and information. Throughout the years, the primary concept of the IDEP/GIDEP has been to *"have the data waiting for the user -- not the user waiting for the data."*

The Navy initiated a program, the Components Reliability History Survey

(CRHS), during the 1950s to collect information on high reliability items. In 1963, the Navy's CRHS program merged with IDEP. The CRHS program was designed to exchange documented test and related information on high reliability parts/components used in the various ballistic missile programs for the military. In addition, the Navy had a parallel effort to collect reliability information for its guided missile programs. Guided Missile Data Exchange Program (GMDEP) also designed to exchange reliability and test information on parts/components used in the Navy's other missile programs. In 1964, the Navy's GMDEP merged with IDEP.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) requested to join IDEP in 1965, to improve the exchange of data for parts used for space application. NASA began to issuing ALERTs in 1966, on parts, components and materials that did not meet specifications for space requirements. Thus the NASA ALERTs were the start of the IDEP ALERT system. Rapidly, many of the IDEP participants began exchanging ALERT information on nonconforming parts and components used by the military and NASA. The ALERT system was considered a special service but remained a part of the Engineering microfilm. In 1978, the ALERT system name was changed to the Failure Experience Data Interchange. The data was issued daily in hard copy and monthly on microfiche. At the same time, the Department of National Defence, Canadian Military Electronics Standards Agency

(CAMESA) requested permission to join IDEP to exchange data among Canadian industry and government activities and the U.S. suppliers. A Memorandum of Agreement was signed between the Canadian Government and the U.S. Department of State in 1966. The Canadian Department of Defence became a sponsor and participant in the Program.

With the addition of NASA and CAMESA to the IDEP community, the program name was changed to the Interagency Data Exchange Program, while retaining the acronym IDEP, which more closely reflecting the makeup of the government sponsors and participants. At the same time, the scope of data for the IDEP program was changed to accept test and reliability data on all missile and aerospace programs.

In 1968, the National Conference of Standards Laboratories (NCSL), due to budgetary constraints, requested IDEP assume responsibility for collection and distribution of its massive hard copy calibration file maintained at Vandenberg Air Force Base. The Joint Material/Logistics Commanders approved this action. The integration of this data became the substance for a second data interchange, the Calibration Procedures Interchange, to IDEP. As may be seen further on this exchange became nucleus the Metrology Data Interchange.

At a briefing to report progress of the Program, Commander McPherson recommended that in the interest for improved efficiency and timeliness for data exchange, the Program be centrally managed and the management delegated to the Navy. By this time over 130 industry contractors

were on distribution for the indexes to the data. The three service's IDEP Offices were consolidated at the Fleet Missile Evaluation and Analysis Group, Corona, California, by agreement of the Joint Logistics Commanders (JLCs). The Program was renamed the Government-Industry Data Exchange Program (GIDEP) to reflect the makeup of its participants and the its growth. The JLCs requested Chief of Naval Operations, Navy assume the overall program management of GIDEP.

In 1973, the Navy decided to consolidate the Secretariat for Electronic Test Equipment (SETE) from the New York University, Long Island, New York, to Corona, California and place it within GIDEP. In 1976, SETE was merged with GIDEP, combined with the Calibration Data Interchange and renamed the Metrology Data Interchange. About the same time the National Bureau of Standards (NBS), now known as the National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST), became active in GIDEP and made the Program a repository for calibration and standards information.

Early in the sixties, the Navy began a program to collect and analyze reliability data at the Fleet Missile Systems Analysis and Evaluation Group (FMSAEG), Corona, CA. The data was collected, cataloged, analyzed and published in a series of books known as the Failure Rate Data (FARADA) Handbooks. The FARADA Handbooks became widely used throughout the defense and aerospace industry. FARADA was a separate interagency data program supported by the Army, Navy, Air Force, and NASA. The FARADA program which was co-

located in the same offices as GIDEP, was merged with GIDEP in 1973. At that time the name was changed to the Reliability-Maintainability Data Interchange. During the same Joint Material/Logistics Commanders meeting the Program Manager was requested to investigate provide the Index information on line for participant retrieval. In 1973, GIDEP initiated its first retrieval program that could be accessed by a remote computer terminal. The first retrieval program was very limited in scope and accessibility. The remote terminal retrieval program has changed and evolved over the years to the present retrieval system with its graphical user interface software.

During the 80s availability of petroleum based energy resources caused GIDEP participants to look to GIDEP as source of information on energy sources and their production. The nation's industry began focusing on how to better harness renewable energy sources such as nuclear, solar and wind. As the importance of energy and energy exploration increased, the Department of Energy (DOE) and Nuclear Regulatory Agency (NRC) joined GIDEP. In 1981, decision was made to add selected DOE documents and reports to GIDEP. The Program now became a repository for energy information needed by the same industry contractors that had been suppliers to the Department of Defense and NASA.

In 1988, the Department of Defense Inspector General (DoDIG) was asked to review GIDEP to determine its effectiveness and to recommend changes to improve its viability. Results of their survey highlighted the need to modernize the GIDEP system to increase its responsiveness to its customers. It was also recommended that the Program should focus on information vital to the nation's interest and which would decrease the cost of systems acquisition. As a result,

the Program Manager, with the support of the GIDEP sponsors, briefed the Jointed Logistics Commanders and recommended an aggressive program for the acquisition of equipment and software for the state-of-the-art imaging and data retrieval system. It was also recommended, in keeping with the general philosophy of reduced dependence on paper, to have a system whose primary method distribution would be electronic.

The new Electronic Document Automated Information System (EDAIS) was activated, September 1992. At the same time planning was approved for a second modernization in 1995. The EDAIS system provided the first experience with imaging of libraries, optical character recognition of large quantities of hard copy materials, and the transfer of large quantities of text and images over existing communications systems. In 1993, due to the age of the existing Navy's mainframe computer, the decision was made to migrate the GIDEP information systems from the mainframe computer to a state-of-the-art client server platform, using parallel processing technology and a relational database. The migration to the latest technology provides the GIDEP customers with a more reliable, faster, and user friendly environment, to obtain information needed to remain competitive in a rapidly changing world.

As the technological world of information changes, so will GIDEP. The information needs of tomorrow's GIDEP customers will be different from those it founders envisioned when the IDEP program began in 1959. The speed and timeliness of information will create new opportunities and challenges for the people involved in the Program as GIDEP continues its shift to a "paperless society" where data is stored in on-line databases and retrieved electronically by GIDEP's customers.