

# ORGANISATION - ADVANCED PROJECTS GROUP

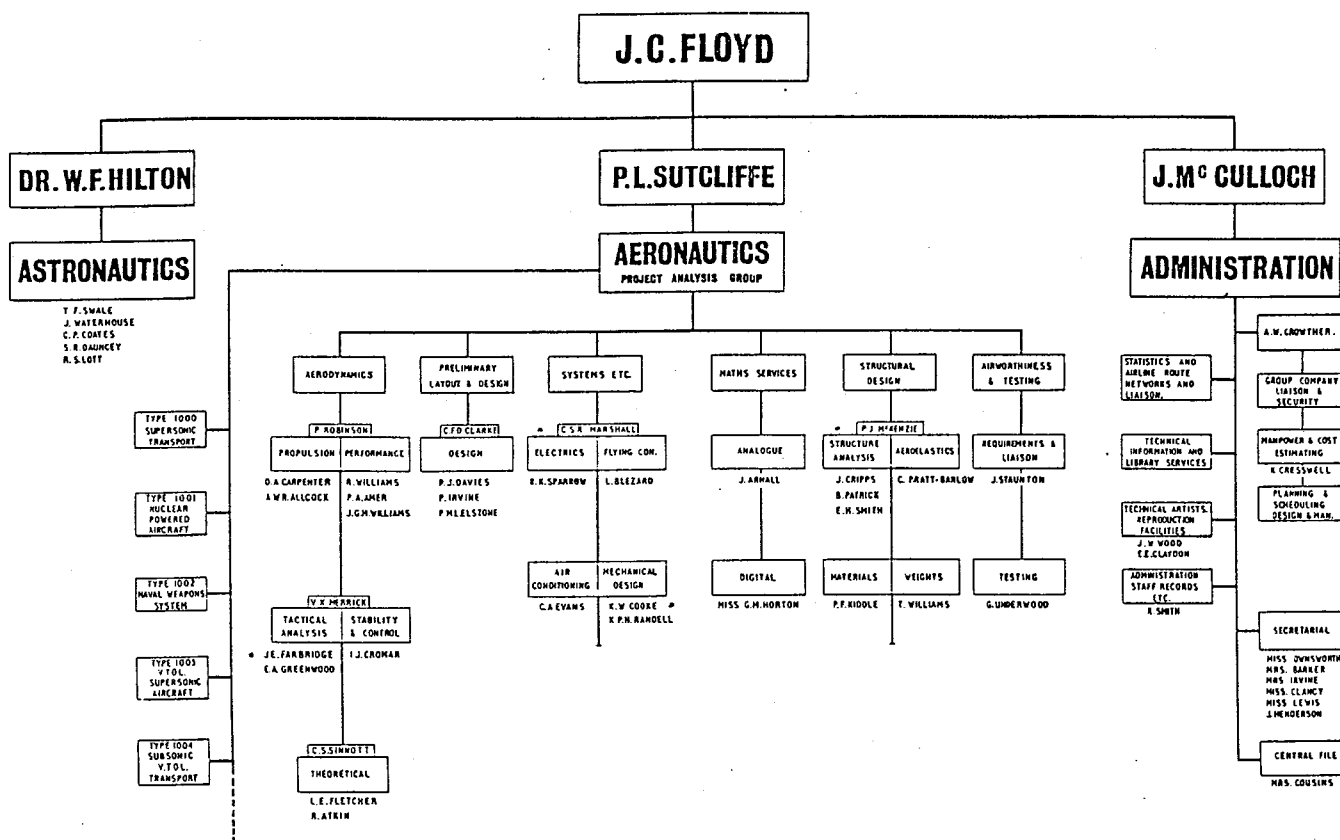


Chart 2. Notes on the Advanced Projects Group.

## Historical :

The formation of the Advanced Projects Group was proposed and approved by the Hawker Siddeley Aviation Board of Directors early this year. The Group took up its quarters at Kingston on the 1st. June, 1959 but prior to this the original members spent some five weeks in Canada assimilating the results of the Arrow programme and carrying out initial design studies relevant to the supersonic transport, using the staff still employed at Malton.

## Projects under Investigation.

The major job undertaken by the Group since its formation has been the supersonic transport following the work of the Supersonic Transport Aircraft Committee. The results to date of the work carried out on the supersonic transport are summarised elsewhere in these notes.

## Other projects being studied are:-

- Nuclear powered aircraft carrying a powered bomb. At the present time the majority of the work on this project is being carried out by the Hawker Siddeley Nuclear Power Company in the form of a feasibility study into the design and construction of an airborne nuclear reactor.
- Naval weapons system study. The Navy have formulated requirements for a strike/fighter aircraft to follow the NA.39. We have certain doubts as to the practicability of a single aircraft combining both strike and fighter features and are therefore carrying out tactical studies into the overall problem of the defence of the fleet. From these studies we hope to be able to formulate our suggestions for the appropriate aircraft.
- Supersonic VTOL aircraft. As part of the feasibility study into supersonic transports we are evaluating the VTOL supersonic transport as suggested by Dr. Griffiths of Rolls Royce.
- Subsonic VTOL transport aircraft. In conjunction with Armstrong Whitworth we are studying the use of the Argosy as a VTOL operational research aircraft by modifying it to incorporate Rolls Royce lightweight lifting engines in the booms.

## Astronautics

A small team has been formed to study the various problems of space travel, in particular orbital and re-entry vehicles.

## Recruitment

The original target for the A.P.G. was a total of 80 people by the end of September, 1959. Although we have had generous co-operation from Group Companies it was found to be impossible to recruit at this rate and the actual figure was 35 at the end of September. The present level at the 1st December is 50, but based on the replies to recent advertisements we expect to increase the staff at a steady rate up to a total of 83 by the end of July 1960.

Up to date, the complement has been recruited from the following sources:- Glosters (8), Armstrong Whitworth (8), AVRO Manchester (4), AVRO Canada (5), Hawkers (3), A.T.S. (1), Orenda (1), Bristol Siddeley (1), other sources (19).