

# Delivery list and Applications

November 29, 2008

We have not been able to locate an authoritative list from English Electric. Hence the list here has been compiled from a number of sources, as indicated. Further details and the sources are as follows:

**Admiralty Research Lab.** Papers are available in the National Archives, but have not been examined for details of the KDF9. Also [2].

**Birmingham University.** The main problem was that the Birmingham '9 was the first production m/c and thus suffered, while the second and subsequent were much healthier! I always said EE completed their development onsite! (The '9 was not the last of such examples...)

The biggest problem was that test software (written mostly by me in those early days) ran but Director and Applications fell over after 10 mins. There were few lamps and indicators, no parity on core stores and the main application, a Mercury Simulator, when it failed simply output to the flexowriter "hoot hoot hoot", not very informative... Eventually problems were solved and the '9 proved a good 2nd generation computer. From 64 till 67 Robert Beard ran a post development and special engineering group for the '9, adding all sorts of extras to the system, among them, a fast plotter for the Met Office, modem i/f for Salford and NCC '9s with prototype STC modems so that the two '9s could send data at 2.4Kbds over special PO coax (in 1965 this was a first in the UK). Source: Robert Beard. Also [2].

**Bristol Siddley Engines.** This later became Rolls Royce. In 1969 the former BAC machine was relocated to Patchway where Bristol Siddley ran the only twin KDF9 operation that has been located. Both machines were linked to a DEC PDP10 which fed them with jobs, and accepted results for users. Source: Alan Freke.

David Holdsworth reports: I believe that I've already told folks that Rolls-Royce had a KDF9 somewhere near Bristol. I went there in about 1970/71. I produced a magtape version of the Eldon2 FORTRAN compiler and delivered it in person. They went bust before paying the bill. Also [2].

**Bristol Siddley Engines. No.2.** In any event, the Bristol Aeroplane machine was disused by 1968, and had just been bought by Bristol Siddley Engines when the Wills machine was put out of action. Wills used the BAC machine (paying Bristol Siddley) on BAC premises for about nine months to keep the business running. Source: Alan Freke.

<i>Machine</i>	<i>First date working</i>	<i>Last date working</i>
Admiralty Research Lab	< 1965-12	
Baric (service m/c)	?	
Birmingham University	1964-06-21	1972
Bristol Siddley Engines (later Rolls Royce, Bristol)	1964	later than 1977
Bristol Siddley Engines (No.2) (fomerly Bristol Aeroplane Co. m/c)	1969	later than 1977
Bristol Aeroplane Co.	1964?	1968
Culham AEA	1965-03	1970/71
De Havilland (Hatfield)	< 1965-12	
Edinburgh University	1966-12 (rental)	1969-12-24
Glasgow University	1964	≈ 1972
ICI1 (Teeside)	1964-02	1972 (2nd quarter)
Knutsford Nuclear Power Group	< 1965-12	
Leeds University	1964	≈ 1976
Liverpool University	1964?	
Marconi (Chelmsford)	< 1965-12	
Met office	< 1965-07	
Newcastle University	1964?	1973-08
NCC	April 1967	1970
Nottingham University	1965	End 1971 to mid 1972
NPL1	1964-08-01	1980-08-29
NPL2 (NCC)	1970-02	1980-08-29
Oxford University	1965-01	1971-12
Salford	1964?	≈ 1974
Stafford (English Electric)	< 1965-12	
Sun Life Assurance Society Ltd, (Cheapside)	< 1965-12	later than 1975
Sydney University	1964	
Whetstone (English Electric)	< 1965-12	
Wills Tobacco	1965-04	1975-03-21
Winfrith AEA	1964-12	

Table 1: Details of KDF9 machines traced as of November 2008

**Culham AEA.** Source: Michael Poole. Also [2].

**De Havilland (Hatfield).** Also [2].

**Edinburgh University.** Source: Graham Toal. Edinburgh annual reports from Dr G E Thomas.

**Glasgow University.** The machine was almost certainly installed around May 1964. It seems unlikely that the machine was working before the Birmingham one. Source: John Patterson and Bill Findlay. Also [2].

**ICI1 (Teeside).** Source: Neville Taylor. Also [2].

**Leeds University.** The KDF9 was only for undergraduate use from 1972. Source: David Holdsworth. Also [2].

**Liverpool University.** See [2].

**Metrological Office, Bracknell.** See: Hansard Also [2].

**Newcastle University.** See [2].

**NCC.** From Bill Hayes.

**Nottingham University.** See KDF9 photos. Source: Eric Foxley. Also [2].

**NPL.** Detailed information is provided in [1]. The second KDF9 was obtained from the National Computing Centre (NCC). Also [2].

**Oxford University.** See OU report 64/65  
OU report 71/72 Also [2].

**Salford.** From Nigel Morton. Also [2].

**Sydney University.** See: Personal comments, John Barrett. and John Makepeace Bennett. Also [2].

**Sun Life.** See [2] and also from John Williams.

**Wills Tobacco.** Source: Alan Freke from Wills chief engineer who has machine logs. Also [2].

**Winfrith AEA.** See [2].

## References

- [1] David M Yates. Turing's Legacy. Science Museum. 1997.  
ISBN 0 901805 94 7
- [2] English Electric Leo Computer Users Association. KDF9 Users. Issue 3.  
December 1965. (From John Deane, Australia. 23 machines listed.)