

ASSOCIATED UNIVERSITIES, INC.

350 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK 1, NEW YORK
LONGACRE 5-0460

17 August 1956

Mr. W. W. Bird, President
Birdair Structures Inc.
290 Larkin Street
Buffalo 10, New York

Dear Mr. Bird:

Since your letter of July 27 arrived, there have been several developments in our radio telescope program. I can now write to you with some degree of certainty of our immediate plans.

Three conventional metal designs for a 140-foot altazimuth telescope are in our hands. An equatorial design study will be completed by the end of this month. A second equatorial design is also being developed by another group. I am therefore proposing to assemble our consultants on a date to be set in the third or fourth week of September. At this meeting all available information will be reviewed in order that some decisions might be made concerning altazimuth/equatorial configurations. Also, we will consider which mount designs are most promising, similarly for reflector designs, and also consider the feasibility of combining the most promising components, (assuming that the best reflector may not now be associated with the best mount).

If you should care to look further into the possibility of air-supported reflector surfaces, along the line suggested in your letter, and to discuss there at the September meeting we would be glad to have you join us. I suspect that an air-supported reflector would require the protection of a radome, which is a matter to which you should give some attention. The all-metal designs we are studying would stand in the open without any protection.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Richard M. Emberson
Assistant to the President

cc: M. B. Karelitz
D. S. Heeschen ✓

Signed in Dr. Emberson's absence