



Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency - DARPA

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On this day in 1958, ARPA's founding director, Roy Johnson, signed ARPA Order #1-58 (the Agency's first official specification of any tasks) directed to the Commanding General of the Army Ballistic Missile Agency (ABMA) in Huntsville, Alabama. The order specified two tasks. "Project One" called for the launching of four Juno space vehicles with payloads such as a "high visibility sphere" for tracking experiments and a platform for "a cloud cover experiment." "Project Two" amounted to a general contract to provide ARPA with "technical, consulting, administrative, inspection, reporting or management services...as may be required from time to time." The order originally specified \$5 million to be made available to ABMA to carry out its new obligations. A series of contract amendments over the subsequent months altered the scope of work dramatically and upped ABMA funding to \$20.62 million. **See less**

— with **Gilbert Akham**.



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