

STATUS OF CONTRACT

Since the accompanying letter was written, Southwest Research has been given a contract for test and fabrication of flight version of a spring/mass pendulum. As a part of this contract, they are investigating the potential of the plate fulcra arrangement which they suggested to replace the air bearing. In addition, some theoretical work by an AMD consultant has yielded a partial mathematical solution for the behavior of this arrangement. The nature of the improvement suggested by Southwest Research is the use of a solid metal spring arrangement which will provide both restoring force and support of the mass to be measured which previously required separate springs and a rather complex air bearing assembly. The results obtained to date have been promising enough that this design is being incorporated in the flight test version which is currently being designed by Southwest Research to be flown later this year.