Software Section

From J. Wilkes, DS Management Consultants Ltd, London:

Dear Sir,

Project Management Software

A list of some suppliers of project management software was given in the December 1986 issue of the Journal (see Smith[1]). The wide range of packages available in terms of both facilities and cost is amply demonstrated.

All the systems listed have one feature in common: namely, the project schedule is calculated using critical path analysis (CPA). In my experience, the critical factor in many projects is not a subset of the tasks but the availability and utilization of skilled professional and technical staff. Absence due to holiday or sickness can severely disrupt a project.

A new project management system called PROMOTE, now available, has been specifically designed to address the problems associated with staff-critical projects. It was reviewed in the magazine Computer Weekly (16th October 1986). PROMOTE has in-built functions to cater for:

- staff holidays
- differing skill levels
- overhead activities such as staff supervision
- time-sheet analyses on time and cost
- milestone tracking.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WILKES

Reference

1. D. SMITH (1986) Project management software. J. Opl Res. Soc. **37,** 1203-1204.