

Bits of history on the auction block

In the spring of 1946, J. Presper Eckert and John Mauchly sent out a business plan for a company that would sell 'electronic computers'. In their eight-page proposal 1_____ financing of this enterprise, sent to a small group of prospective backers, the two engineers predicted that the market for 2_____ a machine might consist 3._____ scientific laboratories, universities and government agencies. Such **were** the beginnings of the Electronic Control Company of Philadelphia, which produced the Univac, the first computer 4._____ be commercially sold in the United States.

At an auction around 60 years later, 5._____ original typescript of the Eckert-Mauchly proposal was sold as part of a collection called 'The Origins of Cyberspace', 6._____ contained about 1,000 books, papers, brochures and 7._____ artefacts from the history of computing. Two items **in** particular generated interest among prospective bidders. **They** were the Eckert-Mauchly business plan and a technical journal containing the idea for TCP/IP, the standard system for the transmission of information over 8._____ Internet.