

Bits of history on the auction block

In the spring of 1946, J. Presper Eckert and John Maunchly 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-Maunchly 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-Maunchly business plan and a technical journal containing the idea for TCP/IP, the standard system for the transmission of information over **8**_____ Internet.