

From: Dag Spicer dspicer@computerhistory.org
Subject: Re: Review of a proposed IEEE Milestone
Date: 26 July 2025 at 05:51
To: Juan Carlos Miguez jcmiguez@vera.com.uy

DS

Dear Juan Carlos,

I hope my responses here are not coming too late for you and that you find them helpful (albeit brief).

I enjoyed going through these materials; thank you for the opportunity to review them. We here at the Computer History Museum have long recognized LEO as an important milestone in computing, so it's nice to see it getting some professional recognition.

My answers below inline.

Warm regards,

Dag

Dag Spicer
Senior Curator
Computer History Museum
Editorial Board, IEEE Annals of the History of Computing
ACM History Committee
1401 N. Shoreline Blvd.
Mountain View CA 94043

"History is a vast early warning system."

— Norman Cousins, American journalist (1915-1990).

Join our Mailing List here: <https://info.computerhistory.org/subscribe>

On Jun 6, 2025, at 7:51 AM, Juan Carlos Miguez <jcmiguez@vera.com.uy> wrote:

Dear Dag Spicer, hello!

Dr Brian Harrington has proposed the early LEO Computer as an IEEE Milestone.

Milestone-Proposal:LEO: First
Application of Digital Computing to
Business Processes (November 1951)
ieemilestones.ethw.org

[<fav](#)
[icon](#)
[.ico](#)
[>](#)

The IEEE History Committee is in charge of evaluating the proposal; if affirmative, a motion will be made to the IEEE Board of Directors, which will give definite approval.

An important part of the approval process is the review by independent experts [ie not related to the process nor their developers]

Your name has been put forward as as a possible independent expert reviewer.

I myself had been Member of the IEEE History Committee and have volunteered serve as "Advocate" in the process; one of my tasks is to secure independent reviews. And incorporate them in my report to the Committee.

I will detail 5 questions [which are also on the Discussion page], you may either answer them on-line or simply send a file to me and I'll take care of the rest

While waiting for your answer, let me thank you in advance for your time collaborating with the IEEE

Best Regards

Juan Carlos Miguez
j.miguez@ieee.org

THE FIVE QUESTIONS:

1. Is suggested wording of the Plaque Citation accurate?

YES.

2. Is evidence presented in the proposal of sufficient substance and accuracy to support the Plaque Citation?

YES.

3. Does proposed milestone represent a significant technical achievement?

YES.

4. Were there similar or competing achievements? If so, have the proposers adequately described these and their relationship to the achievement being proposed?

Yes. THE UNIVAC I would be the closest in time to LEO I but it is well established that it functioned only after LEO I.

5. Have proposers shown a clear benefit to humanity?

Yes. I believe so – in the concluding sentence of the citation.

In answering the questions above, the History Committee asks that independent expert reviewers apply a similar level of rigor to that used to peer-review an article, or evaluate a research proposal. Some elaboration is desirable. Of course the Committee would welcome any additional observations that you may have regarding this proposal.

Thank you,

Dag

CAUTION: External email. Beware of links & attachments.

