WIPO

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
GENEVA

STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY STRATEGIC IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

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INTRODUCTION

1.   By Circular letters SCIT 2469 (in English) and 2472 (in French and Spanish), the International Bureau sent out the draft SCIT IT Strategic Implementation Plan with the invitation to SCIT Member States, Member Organizations and Observers to provide comments thereon by October 30, 1999. As stated in the said Circular letters, the International Bureau drew the attention of Member States and Member Organizations to the fact that due to limited resources allocated to the IT projects, it was essential to agree on criteria for selecting the priority projects out of the 14 IT initiatives. Since then an initial review of project work plans has indicated that progress will be made on all initiatives, to varying degrees, within the funds agreed for the 2000/01 biennium. In accordance with a decision by the SCIT Plenary at its third session, in June 1999, the final version of the above-mentioned Plan was expected to be approved by the Committee at its fourth session during the week of December 6 to 10, 1999.

2.   By November 15, 1999, the International Bureau had received comments on the IT Strategic Implementation Plan from the following 14 IPOs: AT, AU, BG, DE, EA, GB, HU, JP, KG, LT, PE, RU, TM, US. Copies of the replies are reproduced in Annex 1 to this document.

3.   The comments can be grouped as follows:

(a)   <u>Criteria offered for the selection of priority projects</u>

Six Offices (AT, BG, DE, EA, LT, PE) proposed certain criteria for selecting IT projects to be dealt with with priority. The criteria are given in the replies of the respective IPOs.

(b)   <u>Priority projects suggested</u>

Nine Offices (AT, AU, BG, DE, EA, HU, JP, RU, US) proposed to give priority attention to one or several selected projects. Among those projects, WIPONET (Project 8), PCT IMPACT (Project 3), IPDL project (Project 9) and Automated IPOs (Project 1) have received the most support from those Offices (in that order).

(c)   <u>Comments of a general nature</u>

In addition to the comments referred to under 3(a) and (b), above, the replies from three Offices (GB, JP, US) contained comments with respect to:

(i)   the presentation of the project initiatives within the Strategic Plan;

(ii)   the contents of the planning horizon given in Figure 1 of the Strategic Plan;

(iii)   the need for reporting, by the International Bureau, at each of the SCIT Plenary sessions, on progress in the implementation of each project.

4.   Further information was requested regarding:

(i)   budgetary clarifications on the envisaged investments for automation projects;

(ii)   the relationship between the SCIT and the ITSC;

(iii)   the role of the SCIT in view of each of the individual projects;

(iv)   estimated target dates for the deployment of the projects.

5.   It was also proposed to distinguish outward-facing parts of the Strategic Plan which had critical importance for WIPO Member States or Organizations and external customers and those projects which had critical importance for the efficient operation of internal processes of the International Bureau. Another comment contained a proposal to identify more precisely the interdependencies among the various parts of the Strategic Plan.

CONCLUSIONS

6.   Ad para 4 (i), above: The allocation of projects to programs in the Program and Budget for 2000/01 is shown in the table below. Budget figures are given for the program only and will be allocated to projects once a work plan for the IT Division has been finalized. Where a program covers more than one project funds will be allocated depending on the priorities expressed by Member States and, where an internal IB system is concerned, the needs of WIPO.

Program	Source of funding	Project(s) financed	Budget
12.1	SRF	WIPOnet Automated IPOs (needs analysis)	Sfr 11,500,000
		Finaut enhancement and support Other admin.support services Web site development support WWA distance learning core support IT infrastructure improvement	Budget of Sfr 8,551,000 to be split between the ongoing activities accordingly
12.2	SRF	IPDLs CLAIMS Changeover assistance	Sfr 8,169,000
13	SRF	PCT Impact	Sfr 40,000,000 already appropriated over 3 years
14.1	REG	MAPS/DMAPS core operations	Sfr 4,920,000
Other projects		y2k Copyright support services	Paid for by savings found elsewhere Project feasibility still under analysis

7.   Ad para 4 (ii), above: Following a recent reorganization the WIPO IT Division has been divided into four main areas; Core IT Systems, PCT Impact Project, WIPOnet Project and IT Business Management. The purpose of the change was to increase the level of managerial cooperation between the project and core sides and to centralize common services such as resource control and monitoring. A post of Chief Information Officer, who would head the Division, was also created and is currently vacant. With the new management team in place it was agreed that the ITSC as a coordination body was no longer required and thus, it was abolished. SCIT decisions and recommendations will in future be transmitted by the CIO directly to the four unit heads who, with the CIO, will be responsible to the Standing Committee for their implementation.

8.   Ad para 4 (iii), above: With the exception of the PCT Impact project which reports to the PCT Assembly, all the projects are governed by the SCIT on issues of technical policy. The SCIT may also make recommendations to the Program and Budget Committee on the financial implications of any of the projects.

9.   Ad para 4(iv), above: Many of the target dates for deployment are purely provisional as they are dependent on funds being available, especially in the case of lower-priority projects.

Project	**Estimated target date for deployment**
Automated IPOs (needs analysis)	Work to begin 2nd quarter 2000
Changeover assistance	Ongoing
PCT Impact	2002
Finaut enhancement and support	Ongoing
Other admin.support services	Ongoing
MAPS/DMAPS core operations	Ongoing
Copyright support services	Project feasibility under analysis
WIPOnet	Start of deployment 3rd quarter 2000
IPDLs	Late 2001/early 2002
Web site development support	Ongoing
y2k	Work to be completed by end March 2000
CLAIMS	Ongoing
WWA distance learning core support	Ongoing
IT infrastructure improvement	Ongoing

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