



ARIPO

*African Regional Intellectual
Property Organization*

ARIPO Online Tools and Services - Assessment and Deployment Experience

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Fostering Creativity and Innovation for Economic Growth and Development in Africa

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ARIPO-WIPO-KOICA ICT PROJECT FOR THE UPGRADE OF THE ARIPO ICT INFRASTRUCTURE AND THOSE OF ITS MEMBER STATES

- In August 2013 ARIPO embarked on the Upgrade and Modernization of the ICT Infrastructure of the ZIPO, ARIPO and its Member States project
- The goal of this project was to upgrade and modernize ICT infrastructure of patent offices in ARIPO and 19 Member states
- The main objectives include:
 - the enhancing of efficiency of the business processing and other administrative work at the ARIPO Office and those of its Member States,
 - the facilitation of accessibility of Intellectual Property information in the region and in Africa at large
 - The strengthening of ICT institutional capacity in the ARIPO region and beyond

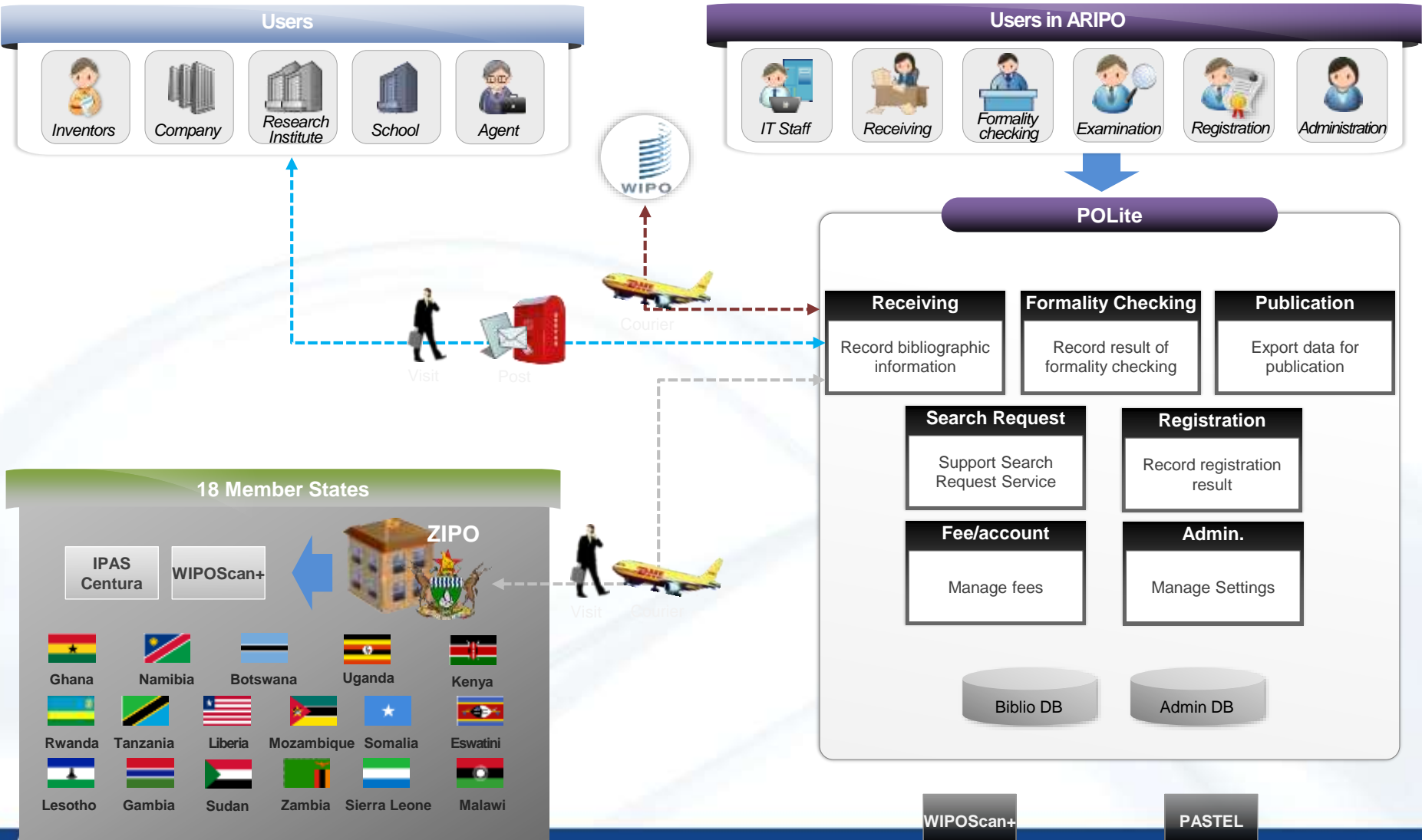


IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ARIPO-WIPO-KOICA ICT PROJECT FOR THE UPGRADE OF THE ARIPO ICT INFRASTRUCTURE AND THOSE OF ITS MEMBER STATES

- The project focused on:
 - upgrading ARIPO's IP administration system
 - development of a member states' module for online electronic data communication and
 - the development and provision of online services to users and the public at large
- the new IP administration system, POLite+, was launched on March 2nd, 2015
- the project was inaugurated on April 24th, 2015



Before POLite+



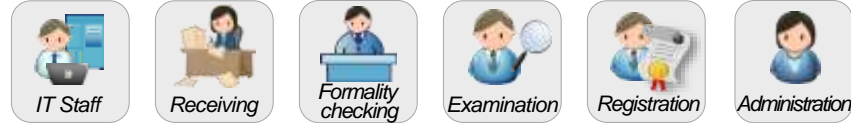
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Online Service, M/S Module, POLite+

Users



Users in ARIPO



Search Portal for Public

NEW

IP Digital Library IPDL for Patent, Utility Model, Industrial Design, Trademark	e-Service On-line application and e-payment
Internet Journal On-line Journal and Retrieval	Home page Portal site for Public

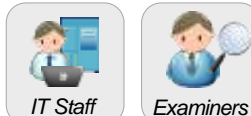
Member State Module

NEW

Harare Data exchange related Harare Protocol	Banjul Data exchange related Banjul Protocol
Transfer Search Data Data transfer for search system	Account inquiry Request balance account and Inquiry account information
IPAS API WIPOScan API	System management configuration setting and User management

IPAS JAVA WIPOScan v2.2

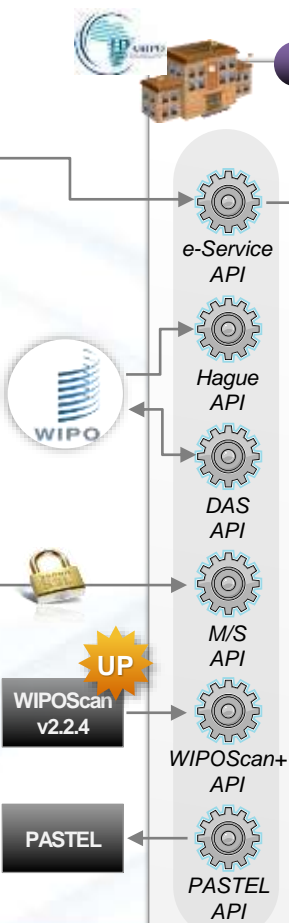
Users in MS



POLite+ (Web-based IP Automation system)

Receiving UP Online Offline	Formality Checking UP Check the formality and requirements	Publication UP Publication of online and offline
Search Request UP Search service Requesting services	Registration UP Creation, change management	
Fee/account UP Fee rates Management of fee receiving information	Admin. UP User setting, Log, User authority	
Examination NEW Substantial examination	Search system NEW Search for prior arts	Form mgmt NEW Form management Form creation, modification

receiving DB	M/S connection DB NEW	E-document DB NEW
Administration DB	PASTEL connection DB NEW	Search DB NEW



POLite+

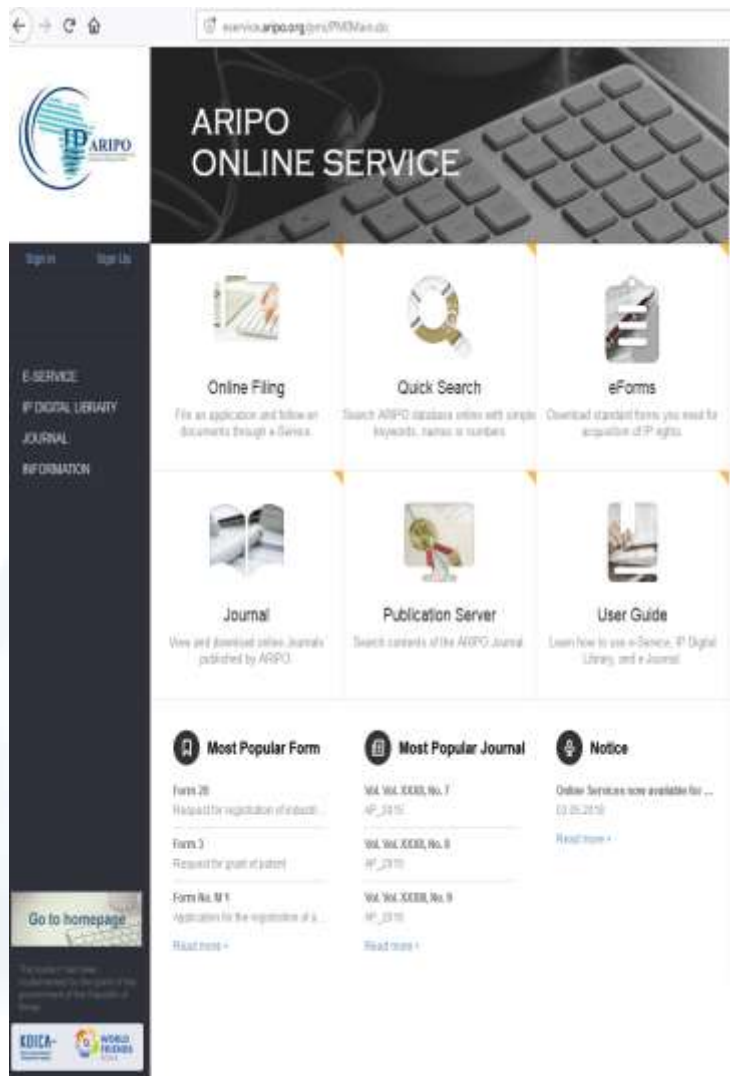
- Web-based IP administration automation system for ARIPO
- As an internal system, POLite+ allows ARIPO to proceed with IP administration work from reception to registration.
- POLite+ provides functions for IP work including application reception, verification, data capturing, formality examination, substantial examination, registration, examiner search, journal publication and fee management.

The screenshot displays the 'Main Data' tab of the POLite+ system. The interface is organized into several sections:

- Navigation:** 'Main Data', 'Person', 'Figure', and 'Document List' tabs are visible at the top.
- Application Information:** A table-like structure contains fields for 'Domain' (ARIPO Patent), 'Application No.' (AP/P/2015/000206), 'Applicant type' (Standard Application), 'Date Received' (27.01.2015), 'Receiving Office No.', 'Representative ref.' (A1112), 'Filing Date' (27.01.2015), 'Anniversary' (1), 'Valid Until' (27.01.2016), and 'Date abandoned'.
- PCT Information:** Fields for 'PCT Appl. Date' and 'PCT Appl. No.' are present, with a 'Download from WIPO' button.
- Title and Abstract:** The title is 'A crystalline form of penndopril tert-butylamine salt'. There are checkboxes for 'Including non-unicode' for both title and abstract.
- Classification:** A section for 'IPC classes' with a 'Search' button. It shows two entries: 'C07K 5/02 (2006-01)' and 'C07K 5/00 (2006-01)'. There are also fields for 'Number of pages' (0) and 'Number of claims' (0).
- Priority:** Fields for 'Priority number', 'Priority date', 'Country code', and 'DAS code'. Two entries are shown: '9802864-0 (06.07.2000/PK)' and '9802864-1 (06.07.2000/SD)'. A 'Priority' label is visible on the left.
- Designated States:** A list of states with checkboxes: BW (Botswana), GH (Ghana), GH (Gambia), KE (Kenya), LR (Liberia), and LS (Lesotho). Buttons for 'Designated All' and 'Deselect All' are present.
- Footer:** A blue 'Save' button with a checkmark is located at the bottom center.



Online Services



- ✳ IP information service for the general public
- ✳ E-filing
- ✳ E-payment
- ✳ E-service and IPDL (*IP Digital Library*)
- ✳ Journal search (*Free of Charge*)
- ✳ Search System for examiners
- ✳ Form & fee information download
- ✳ Member State Module

% Uptake Online Services?

General: 73%
Patents: 83%
Trademarks: 60%
Industrial Designs: 56%



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Online Service

Users



Inventors



Company



Research
Institute



School



Agent



Search Portal for Public

NEW

IP Digital Library

IPDL for Patent, Utility Model,
Industrial Design, Trademark

e-Service

On-line application and
e-payment

Internet Journal

On-line Journal and Retrieval

Home page

Portal site for Public

eservice.aripo.org

- ▶ E-SERVICE
 - └ Online Filing
 - └ E-PAYMENT
 - └ Notification
 - └ My Docket

SSL, double passwords based

- ▶ IP DIGITAL LIBRARY
 - └ Quick Search
 - └ Advanced Search

security

- ▶ JOURNAL
 - └ ARIPO Journal
 - └ Publication Server
 - └ Member States Journal

ARIPO Data

National Data

Free of charge

Member States Journal



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ONLINE FILING STATISTICS

	2017		
	Online	Other Methods	Online %
Patents	433	313	58.10
Industrial Designs	56	36	60.87
Utility Models	2	14	12.50
Trademarks	224	157	58.79
TOTAL	716	520	57.93

	2018		
	Online	Other Methods	Online %
Patents	691	139	83.25
Industrial Designs	62	48	56.36
Utility Models	11	28	28.21
Trademarks	221	147	60.05
TOTAL	985	362	73.13



MEMBER STATES MODULE

- The Member States (M/S) module was developed as part of the project to Upgrade and Modernize the ICT Infrastructure of the ARIPO office and those of its Member States
- The module has been successfully implemented in 8 Member States (Botswana, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Rwanda, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe). The next phase will involve implementing the module in all the other Member States
- The module allows for online data exchange between POLite+ of ARIPO and IPAS of its Member States.
- Through the module, ARIPO and its member states are able to exchange all types of notifications, forms and documents online



Member States Module

- ✳️ **ARIPO's member states notification, transmission, reception system**
- ✳️ **National data sending function through the linkage with the IPAS of WIPO**
- ✳️ **Search account report**
- ✳️ **Journals of the member states**

TRANSMISSION HISTORY

Home > History

Sent
 Received

~

Total : 3

IPAS Application no	ARIPO Application no	Document type	Date	Status
NP/P/2015/000005		ARIPO Form9	05.02.2015	Success
NP/P/2015/000004		ARIPO Form9	29.01.2015	Success
NP/P/2015/000003		ARIPO Form9	29.01.2015	Sending...

Item per page : 10

1



DIGITIZATION PROJECT

- The project involves digitization of ARIPO's IP physical files lodged before 2nd March 2015 due to the fact that the digitization of the front files commenced with the deployment of POLite+
- Project was concluded on 31 July 2018
- The objectives of the digitization project include:
 - The automation of all business processes at the ARIPO Office and those of its Member States;
 - Provision of greater flexibility in the flow of documents with the consequent reduction in processing times;
 - Improvement in the quality of search results;
 - Provision of secure access to documents. The system would place verifiable accounts of the date of right holders and their works on record
 - A total of 11,566 files consisting of 1,134,090 pages were digitized as part of this project



TMVIEW AND DESIGNVIEW PLATFORMS

- ARIPO's published trademark data was made available on the TMview platform on 7 December 2015 and published design data made available on the DesignView platform on 31 October 2016.
- The objective is to support the availability of IP information to the public
- TMview and DesignView are online search tools providing centralized access to published trademarks and registered designs from participating offices
- The platforms only provide centralized access
- ARIPO joined TMClass as from 9 April 2018



Challenges

- Change management (Resistance to change)
- Poor and unreliable internet connectivity
- Harmonization of eCommerce laws
- Inadequate ICT Infrastructure
- Human resources capacity
- Limited financial resources
- Systems support and maintenance
- Most of the Member States have not made their journals available for upload on the online services platform
- Some banks are still issuing cards which are not 3D secure
- There are still a number of agents who have not signed up for online filing



Benefits

- ✦ Efficient processing of IP applications from filing to grant/registration
- ✦ Reduction of errors in the business processing of applications
- ✦ Reduced costs & processing time for applications
- ✦ Improvement in service delivery and increased customer satisfaction
- ✦ Faster IP data communication with other IP Offices and users
- ✦ Timely, cost-effective generation of official publications
- ✦ Application status accessible online for the Public
- ✦ Improved access to technological information
- ✦ Improved transparency in management, administration and enforcement of IP



Requirements

- Executive support
- Project Management Team
- Project plan with clear milestones and objectives
- Good ICT infrastructure
- Reliable internet connection
- Human resources
- Financial Resources – budget for the project
- An enabling environment to succeed



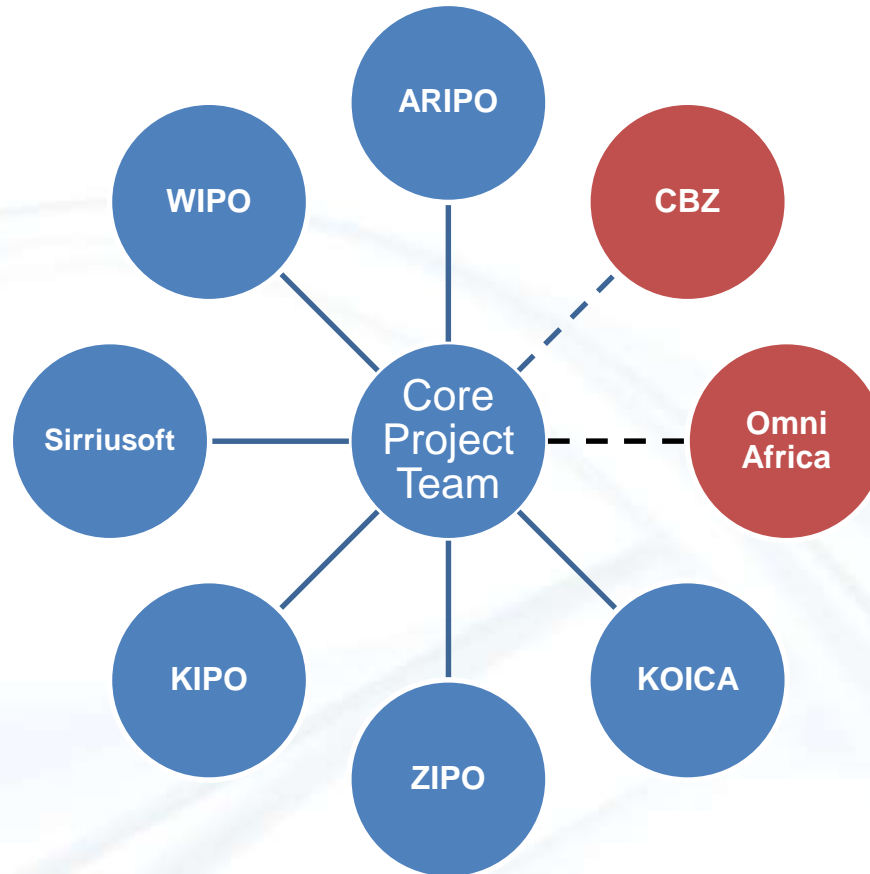
Preparedness

- ✓ Executive support
- ✓ Project Management Team
- ✓ Project plan with clear with clear objectives and milestones
- ✓ Good infrastructure
- ✓ Reliable internet connection
- ✓ Human resources
- ✓ Financial Resources – budget for the project
- ✓ First line support

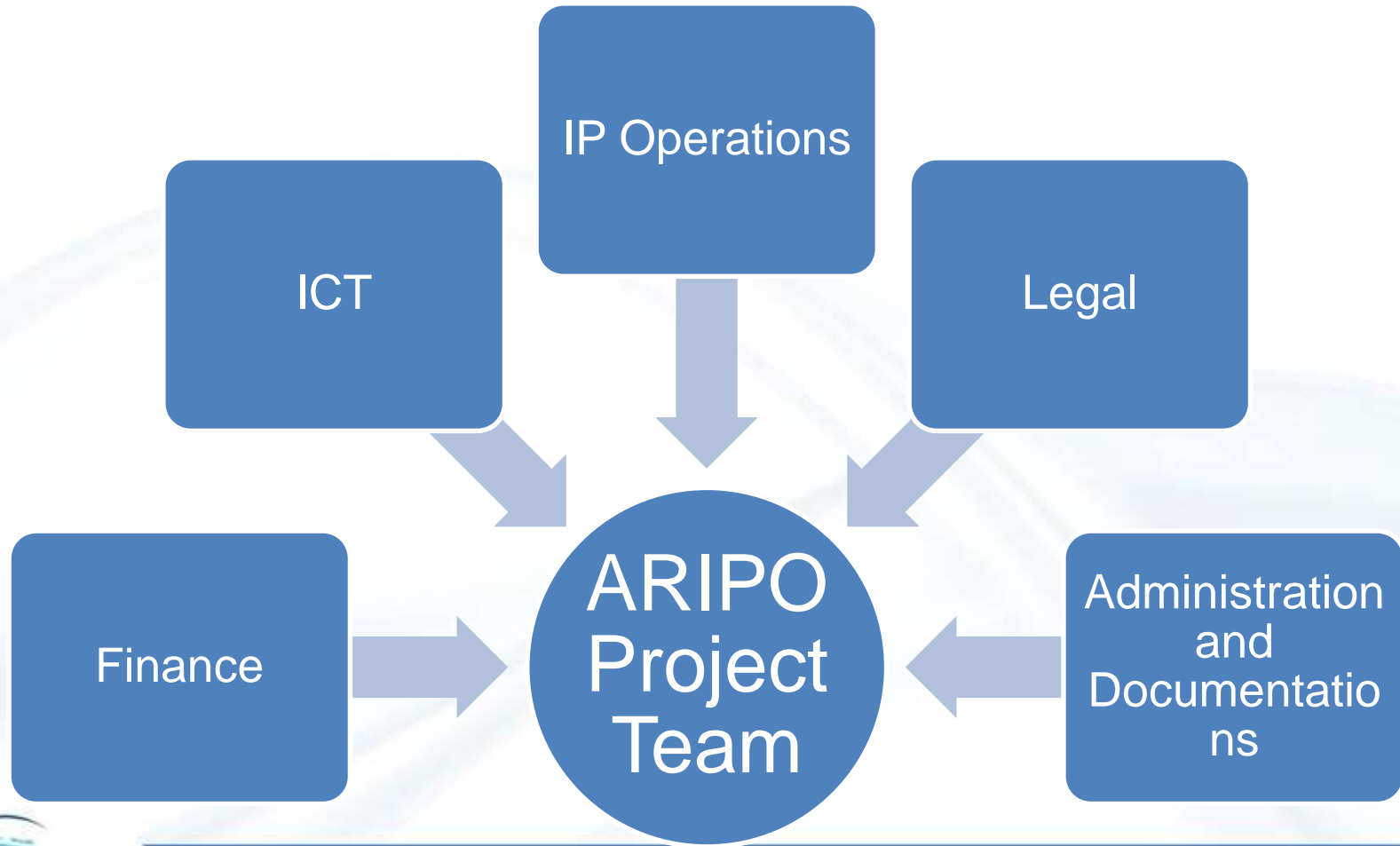
➤ **An enabling environment to succeed**



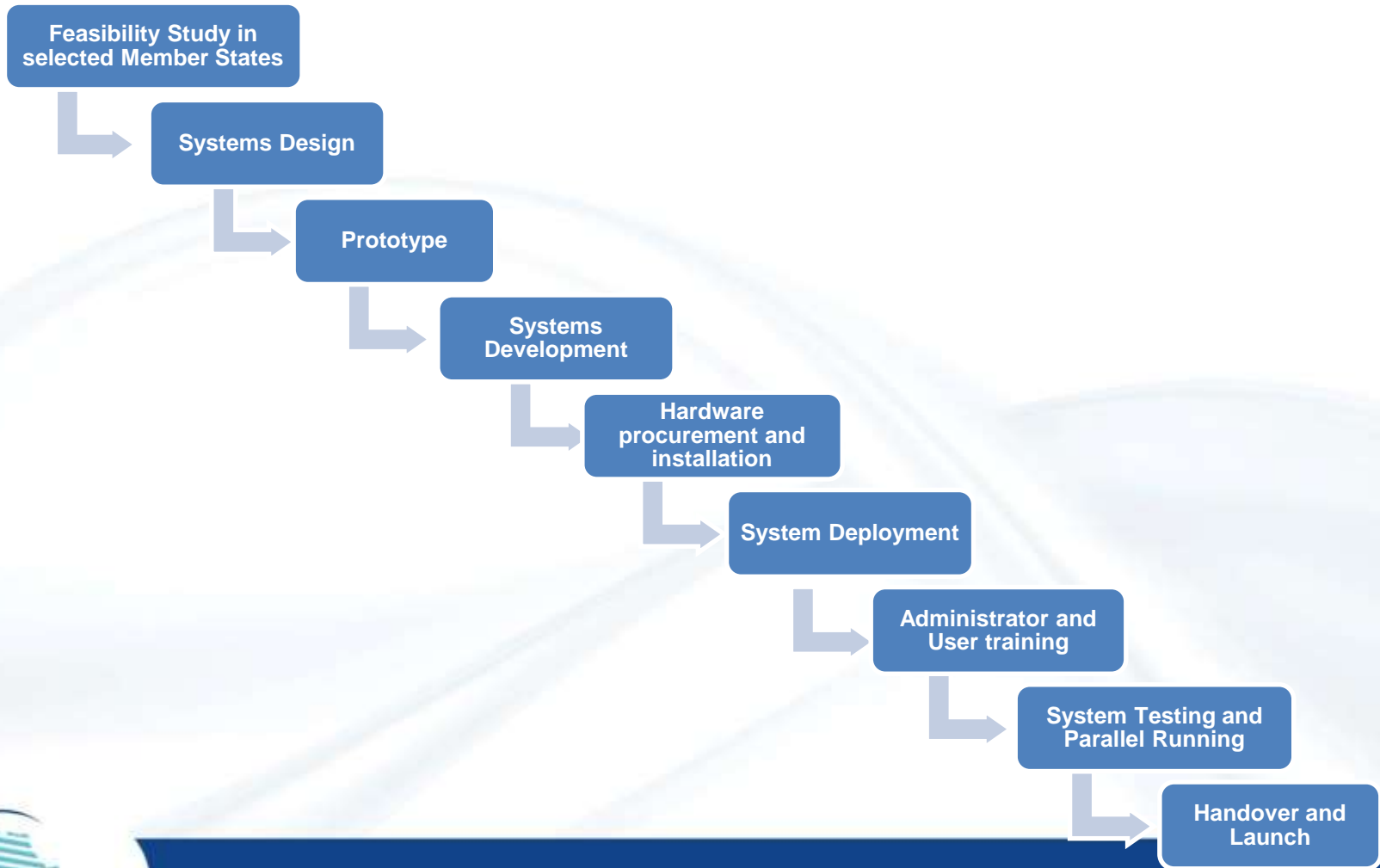
Deployment Strategies



Internal Project Team



Implementation Steps



Interfacing and Integration

- Nuxeo EDMS
- WIPOScan
- PCT downloads facility
- Ledger Accounting system
- Payment Gateway
- WIPO Publish
- IPAS / MS Module
- TMView
- DesignView
- Exchange of information with other IP Offices e. EPO, SIPO, JPO





African Regional Intellectual Property Organization

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