

WIPO



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PROGRESS REPORT — GLOBAL INFORMATION NETWORK PROJECT (WIPONET)

Document prepared by the International Bureau

INTRODUCTION

1. This document provides a brief report on progress on the Global Information Network project since approval to proceed was given at the first session of the Standing Committee on Information Technologies (SCIT) Plenary in June 1998.

INITIAL STEPS TAKEN

2. Following approval the first actions taken were to:

- hire a contractor to draft the WIPONET Request for Proposal (RFP), and
- put arrangements in-hand for the selection and establishment of a WIPO team to manage the WIPONET project.

3. A tender request was issued in August 1998 following which Bellcore, a firm with extensive experience in the development of international communications networks and services, was awarded the contract to prepare the RFP for WIPONET. Despite only commencing work in October 1998, the first deliverables of this activity, the WIPONET Services Description together with an outline of the RFP, were presented to the first meeting of the SCIT Working Groups in November 1998.

4. Since that date, Bellcore has worked in close cooperation with WIPONET staff to prepare a draft RFP according to the defined scope and timelines as determined by the SCIT Working Groups. A draft RFP was provided by Bellcore for review by the International Bureau on January 8, 1999.

5. Establishment of a new WIPONET team to provide the necessary International Bureau resourcing on the project is proceeding. Selection of the team has just been finalized and the team will be in place by early April 1999. Due to the delay in finalizing the WIPONET team, it has been necessary to delay the issue of the RFP with a consequent slippage in other target dates.

PROJECT PHASING

6. In developing the RFP, decisions to implement WIPONET in phases were agreed in the discussions with the SCIT Working Groups. The phased implementation of WIPONET will allow the International Bureau and the WIPO Member States to put in place hardware infrastructure components of the project (e.g., basic networking connectivity) while exploring flexible solutions to other, less tractable areas (such as information security). This approach provides basic, critically needed services to the largest audience of Member States while developing the planning and research stages of the more complex/later phases in parallel.

7. Implementation will consist of three phases as follows:

- *Phase I*

Basic network connectivity (as covered by the current RFP).

- *Phases II and III*

Phases II and III will cover the upgrade of services including facilities for the secure exchange of confidential materials and the extension of connectivity and services to organizations other than intellectual property offices. These proposals will be presented to the Budget Committee and General Assembly as continuing activities of the WIPONET project for the 2000-2001 biennium.

PROPOSED NEW TIMELINES FOR WIPONET PHASE I

8. Proposed dates of significant milestones in respect of Phase I implementation are as follows:

<i>Milestones</i>	<i>Dates</i>
RFP to be issued	February 12, 1999
Closing date of bids	May 10, 1999
Completion of evaluation and award of tender	June 11, 1999
Start of implementation	June 21, 1999

9. *The SCIT Plenary is invited to note the progress made and approve the revised project proposals.*

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