

WIPO



SCIT/5/4

ORIGINAL: English

DATE: May 15, 2000

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION

GENEVA

STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

PLENARY

Fifth Session

Geneva, July 10 to 14, 2000

WIPO_{NET} PROJECT

Document prepared by the International Bureau

1. The Standing Committee on Information Technologies (SCIT) at its fourth Plenary Session, held from December 6 to 10, 1999, while noting the progress on the Establishment and Operation of WIPO_{NET} contained in document SCIT/WG/2/2, approved, *inter alia*, certain modifications in the technical specifications of WIPO_{NET} and provided a re-confirmation to the plans for a gradual implementation of the Project during its initial phase. This approach was adopted in response to the higher than anticipated installation and recurring costs quoted by the different bidders for the WIPO_{NET} Project.

2. Recognizing the need to revise the implementation strategy *vis-à-vis* the Request for Proposals (RFP) issued in February 1999, with the objective of re-ensuring that the requirements and the expectations of the various interested parties could be satisfied within the resources allocated for the Project, the International Bureau undertook to develop a deployment strategy that would be based on the following basic principles:

(a) the establishment of the technical and human resources infrastructure for the Project's initial and subsequent phases;

(b) initial connectivity for those Intellectual Property Offices (IPOs) in WIPO Member States with no Internet access (current information indicates the number to be 63, as listed in the Annex, pending confirmation by Member States);

(c) ensuring the Project provides for an equitable level of access for all Member States and sustainable by focusing on justified requirements;

(d) the maintenance of a high quality of service;

(e) emphasis on the training of IPO staff; and

(f) the adoption of a phased approach for the implementation of the Project.

3. Consistent with the above principles and based on the following assumptions, the base-line estimates indicate that the infrastructure at the International Bureau and the connection of one IPO in each of the 63 Member States that have no Internet connectivity at present can be achieved within the current biennium and within the allocated budget of some 20 million Swiss francs. This assumes a re-appropriation of unspent funds from the 1999-2000 biennium (see document SCIT/4/8).

4. It is important to bring to the attention of the SCIT the assumptions that have been made in developing this new deployment strategy and highlight the implications for Member States. The following list gives an overview of these with a brief explanation and justification.

(a) Assumption: Individual IPOs will be responsible for their basic telephone charges and internal office infrastructure.

Justification: Due to the large number of Offices involved it would place an enormous administrative overhead on the International Bureau to attempt to process local telephone accounts from Member States connected to the WIPONET. It also is consistent with current responsibilities of Member States which already have Internet access.

(b) Assumption: Connectivity will be by dial-up high-speed modem unless this is not feasible. If justified, cost-effective alternative solutions may be deployed. If this is the case, the implications on the budgetary estimates should be negligible.

Justification: This is what the current budget allocation can provide for with a view to deploying the WIPONET to all the Member States with no Internet connectivity before the end of the current biennium and ensuring that the quality of that service is acceptable.

(c) Assumption: Each IPO would be entitled to connectivity to an average of 30 hours per month or 360 hours per year under the WIPONET operating budget, with additional entitlements being based on justified needs. Otherwise, additional access would be paid for by the Office concerned.

Justification: Again, this is what the current budget allocation can provide for whilst ensuring an acceptable level of quality and equitable access for all WIPONET users. This could be

increased based on justified needs, for example if training was being undertaken by IPO staff or the system was being used to exchange electronic data.

5. Furthermore, continuation of the WIPONET Project is expected to be covered by the relevant Program and Budget in the subsequent 2002-2003 biennium at a cost of 24.6 million Swiss francs. This includes the deployment cost of the remaining 87 IPOs with no Internet connectivity, the International Bureau's central services and Project Management costs, including the provision of services by WIPO staff. This will result in an average running cost of 16,000 Swiss francs per IPO for a total of 150 IPOs (63 + 87).

6. The revised strategy as outlined above will enable the Project to proceed to the deployment of Phase 1 which, as stated above, will focus on setting up the Project's infrastructure at the International Bureau, establishing basic connectivity for those Member States with no Internet access and providing basic services. The approach is designed to support the underlying needs for a network infrastructure that is both scalable and sustainable. The initial goal of this deployment strategy is to have all Member States of WIPO on the Internet by the end of 2001.

WIPONET CENTRAL SERVICES

7. These services will become operational under the first phase of the Project and be available during the first quarter of 2001. An example of the initial basic services offered will include e-mail, list servers, Web-hosting service, file transfer service, discussion groups in IP-related topics, virus scanning and the provision of up-dated virus signatures and user administration. It follows that IPOs that already have Internet access (approximately 164) will also be able to make use of any of these services once they are available.

IPO CONNECTIVITY AND EQUIPMENT

8. In line with the new deployment strategy, the Connection of IPOs to the Internet and the installation of equipment in those Offices will be undertaken in a phased approach. Under Phase 1 of the Project, Member States that have more than one IPO will be asked to nominate the IPO that will receive the initial WIPONET installation. The WIPONET installation kit will consist of 2 PCs (with DVD drives, modems and appropriate software installed and configured), 1 printer, 1 scanner, 1 PC camera, and any other required equipment. Offices will have access to a Helpdesk facility in case of network-related problems.

PROJECT STATUS

9. The bid evaluation process is scheduled to be completed by the end of May 2000. Owing to the complexity of the contract negotiations they are not expected to be completed before September 2000. This would allow for the first stages of deployment to commence in the last quarter of this year.

10. The SCIT Plenary is invited to note and give comments on the information provided in this document.

[Annex follows]

ANNEX

**PROVISIONAL LIST OF WIPO MEMBER STATES WITH NO INTERNET ACCESS
FROM ANY IPO***

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Albania | 33. Kazakhstan |
| 2. Angola | 34. Kuwait |
| 3. Antigua and Barbuda | 35. Lao People's Democratic Republic |
| 4. Azerbaijan | 36. Lebanon |
| 5. Bahamas | 37. Liberia |
| 6. Bangladesh | 38. Madagascar |
| 7. Belize | 39. Malawi |
| 8. Benin | 40. Mali |
| 9. Bolivia | 41. Mauritania |
| 10. Brunei Darussalam | 42. Mozambique |
| 11. Burundi | 43. Nepal |
| 12. Cambodia | 44. Niger |
| 13. Cape Verde | 45. Nigeria |
| 14. Central African Republic | 46. Pakistan |
| 15. Chad | 47. Rwanda |
| 16. Congo | 48. Saint Kitts and Nevis |
| 17. Côte d'Ivoire | 49. Saint Lucia |
| 18. Cyprus | 50. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines |
| 19. Democratic People's Republic of Korea | 51. Samoa |
| 20. Democratic Republic of the Congo | 52. San Marino |
| 21. Dominica | 53. Sao Tome and Principe |
| 22. Equatorial Guinea | 54. Senegal |
| 23. Eritrea | 55. Sierra Leone |
| 24. Fiji | 56. Somalia |
| 25. Gabon | 57. Sri Lanka |
| 26. Gambia | 58. Suriname |
| 27. Grenada | 59. Swaziland |
| 28. Guinea-Bissau | 60. Togo |
| 29. Guyana | 61. Uganda |
| 30. Haiti | 62. Yemen |
| 31. Honduras | 63. Zimbabwe |
| 32. Iraq | |

* This is a provisional list based on information available to the International Bureau at the time of preparation of the document SCIT/5/4, and is liable to change.

[End of Annex and of document]