

# WIPO



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**WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION**

GENEVA

## **STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS WORKING GROUP**

**First Session  
Geneva, September 3 to 7, 2001**

### IMPACT PROJECT STATUS REPORT

*Document prepared by the Secretariat*

#### Background

1. At the thirty-second series of meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO, a proposal (see document A/32/5<sup>1</sup>) for the initiation of a project for the automation of the PCT was considered and approved (see document A/32/7<sup>1</sup>, paragraphs 94 to 99). One of the objectives for what is now known as the IMPACT (Information Management for the Patent Cooperation Treaty) Project was to “create and make available to receiving Offices and PCT applicants electronic filing software” (see document A/32/5, paragraph 1).

#### Overall Project Status

2. The IMPACT Project was originally planned to last three to four years from the date when the international tender process was concluded. It was subsequently decided to redesign the project implementation approach and to deliver the project in three years, without reducing its scope, by running some of its phases in parallel. Actual development work on the project began in January 2000 after contract signature with the external suppliers and is

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<sup>1</sup> Available on WIPO's Internet site at [http://www.wipo.int/eng/document/govbody/wo\\_gb\\_ab/index\\_32.htm](http://www.wipo.int/eng/document/govbody/wo_gb_ab/index_32.htm)

currently running three to four months behind the previously published schedule. However, steps are being taken to ensure that the overall project completion date of December 2002 is maintained.

3. Due to changes that have occurred within the PCT, in particular the need to provide sufficient computer infrastructure to cope with PCT growth and the need to support and develop the existing computer systems, the current expenditure level on the project will mean that the funding to complete the project as planned will be tight. A continual effort is being made to keep project delivery within budget and minimize the risk of over expenditure.

#### Project Milestones/Deliverables Planned and Achieved (for the past three months)

4. The main effort has centered on the delivery of the first part of the IMPACT Communications System (known as Communication on Request (COR)). This has involved the installation and configuration of the computer hardware and the establishment of the PCT scanning office. The scanning office is due to commence production in August 2001. During the reporting period an operational team within the PCT was established (the IMPACT Pilot Team), which will work using new methods and provide a basis for other operational teams within the PCT once the IMPACT Project has been fully delivered. This will also provide the IMPACT Project and the PCT with an environment in which new processes and procedures can be tried and tested prior to being extended to all areas of the PCT.

#### Project Milestones/Deliverables for the Next Period (three months)

5. The major milestones will be the delivery of the principal components of the first phase of the IMPACT Project, the IMPACT Communications System, as follows:

(i) Intermediate Scanning Office (first stage of IMPACT Scanning Office) – August 2001;

(ii) Specific Communications on Request (first stage of Communication on Request System) – December 2001;

(iii) Systematic Communications (first stage of Systematic Communication System) – December 2001.

6. Initiated a security assessment on the IT infrastructure of the IMPACT Project.

7. The planning for the International Bureau (IB) phase of the project, i.e., the automation of the PCT's internal work processes, has been initiated and a high-level implementation strategy has been agreed with the Office of the Patent Cooperation Treaty (OPCT). This planning will be further refined during the coming months.

#### Key Issues and Actions Taken or Recommended

8. Bearing in mind the tight schedule and budget, all options for accelerating project delivery will be investigated in order to identify the one that is most efficient and cost-effective.

9. *The ITPWG is invited to comment upon and note the contents of this document.*

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