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SCIT/ITPWG/2/6
ORIGINAL:English
DATE:December18,2002

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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
GENEVA

STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS WORKING GROUP

Second Session
Geneva, February 3 to 5, 2003

AIMS PROJECT STATUS REPORT

Document prepared by the Secretariat

Background

1. The Finance Division legacy system (FINAUT) has been operational for more than 16 years, with its core largely unchanged since its implementation in the mid-1980s, with only minor peripheral improvements. However, over this period there have been major increases in areas that directly impact the numbers of financial transactions being performed by the Secretariat as well as a demand for improved functionality from the finance systems for example in the area of financial reporting.
2. Under the Administration Integrated Management System (AIMS), the existing finance system (FINAUT) and the Budget Expenditure Tracking System (BETS) reporting system will be replaced, budget monitoring facilities will be integrated and all existing manual or computer-assisted interfaces will be assured, as decided by the Standing Committee on Information Technologies (SCIT) in its fourth Plenary Session and as resolved in its fifth Plenary Session (see documents A/36/3, SCIT/4/2 Annex I, SCIT/5/6 and 10).
3. The present document contains a progress report on the development of the AIMS Project.

Summary of Progress

4. The project, also keeping in mind some delay experienced because of certain reasons beyond control, is proceeding at a good pace and interesting achievements have been made. The hardware and software architectures of the project are being finalized and the Business Process Requirements are being documented in detail. Substantial progress has been made on this front within the Expenditure and General Accounting and Budgetary Control areas.

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

5. After an extensive tender review process, involving the majority of major ERP suppliers, a contract for the purchase of PeopleSoft Financials Software was assigned on September 6, 2002, covering software licenses, installation services, maintenance and standard product training. Training on PeopleSoft standard functionality was conducted for the available members of the project team and several key users from the Finance and Budget divisions during September and October 2002.

6. The PeopleSoft software has been installed on an interim server by the IT Services Division. This will be moved to a more powerful server for the design phase after which the production environment will be set up by acquiring the necessary servers and storage equipment.

7. A request for proposal (RFP) has been issued for services to assist the AIMS Project in the design and implementation phases. The offers received are being evaluated with a view to short-listing companies whose proposals will then be evaluated in depth to select the most suitable company.

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

8. Recruitment of internal team members will be completed and internal team members will complete their training requirements during January 2003.

9. A systems integrator will be selected to help the AIMS project with the design and implementation phases. Once the systems integrator company is selected, a joint comprehensive review and update of the project plan will be undertaken. This will result into an updated plan, which will be used as the baseline project plan for execution of the project.

10. User sign-offs will be obtained on the documentation of the current business processes and requirements and the fit-gap analysis will be initiated.

Key Issues

11. The AIMS team is working with Human Resources Management Division (HRMD) to follow-up on recruitment of certain key internal resources, in order to avoid delays in getting all planned internal resources, which might adversely impact the project.

12. The project deadline of June is still being retained. However, there may be a need to review and revise the project plan to ensure that the deadlines committed are realistic.

13. The ITPWG is invited to comment upon and not the contents of this document.

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