

Special Union for the International Deposit of Industrial Designs (Hague Union)

Assembly

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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MODERNIZATION PROGRAM (HAGUE INTERNATIONAL REGISTRATION SYSTEM): PROGRESS REPORT

prepared by the International Bureau

INTRODUCTION

1. The purpose of this document is to outline progress on the Information Technology Modernization Program (hereafter referred to as “the Program”) since the last Assembly of the Hague Union (hereinafter referred to as “the Assembly”) in September 2011. The document also serves to update members of the Hague Union on any change to the overall approach to the completion of the Program, as well as to notify any change to the Program schedule.
2. Document H/A/30/2 contains the previous Program progress report.
3. It is recalled that the Program is to be undertaken in two phases: Phase I and Phase II. Phase I consists of sub-projects aimed at producing immediate positive results or to lay down the technical foundations for Phase II. Phase II is the actual one-to-one technical migration from the current information technology legacy system, supporting both the Madrid and Hague international registration procedures, to a modern technology that will ensure Madrid and Hague system stakeholders benefit in the years to come from an industry standard technical platform.

4. It is also recalled that at its thirtieth session, the Assembly of the Hague Union approved mid 2013 as the revised schedule for the completion of Phase II, and noted a total project resource envelop of 11.731 million Swiss francs (3 million Swiss francs approved by the Hague Union and 8.731 million Swiss francs approved by the Madrid Union).

IMPLEMENTATION STATUS – PHASE I

5. A major achievement in 2011 was the completion of the work towards a tightening of the publication cycle and the update of the web interface of the *International Designs Bulletin*, as described in document H/A/30/1. The new *International Designs Bulletin* is now published once a week every Friday. The infrastructure and programs were entirely rewritten to cope with the new publication cycle. Consequently, the delay for publishing the *International Designs Bulletin* has been reduced to one week, instead of one month. The web Interface of the *International Designs Bulletin* has been redesigned and enhanced to provide a better experience to the users. The first weekly issue of the *International Designs Bulletin* has been made available on February 3, 2012.

6. The review of the initial electronic filing application to improve the user experience and to take advantage of newer technologies, such as JAVA/J2EE platform, which will facilitate the integration with the future modernized system, is under the final stages of development.

7. Enhancements will include the implementation of new processing rules to avoid some irregularities, including the presentation of data fields that are specific to Contracting Parties (e.g. the name of creator) as well as the verification of the acceptability of a request for deferment of publication and the verification of the Locarno Classification. It will also include new features for saving and printing an acknowledgment of reception, for electronic payment by current account or credit card and the possibility to re-use data from a previous application by the means of a pre-populated application template. New automatic controls will also be implemented for checking the format and the size of the uploaded images.

8. In addition, some portfolio management functions will be implemented to allow for a better management of the electronic filing requests that will include a facility for receiving and responding to irregularity letters through the same electronic filing web interface and the possibility of managing the ensuing international registrations. The development of the new version of the electronic filing facility started in early 2011 and the new version is planned to be available before the end of 2012.

9. A new dynamic web application has been developed to replace the current statistical supplement, which was available in PDF format. Instead of static tables of data, the new functionality enables users to dynamically prepare specified subsets of the statistical tables which may be downloaded to Excel as well as to prepare graphs for such subsets. This new tool includes monthly and annual statistics. The new dynamic web statistics were made available on-line in February 2012.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION – PHASE II

10. It is recalled that the approved approach to the execution of Phase II was to identify, via an open international tender, a qualified and experienced external strategic information technology partner that would:

- undertake a technical assessment of the legacy systems and databases with the aim of converting them into a new Service-Oriented Architecture (SOA);

- propose an appropriate technical architecture, taking into account the results of the SOA Proof of Concept and IRPI Office Pilot Project; and
- prepare a fixed price offer for the conversion of the legacy software and data structures to the proposed technical architecture, including the preparation of the necessary web services, SOA technologies, execution of subsequent system testing and establishment of systems performance benchmarks, together with an appropriate roll-out strategy as well as the provision of a go-live and post go-live system support strategy underpinned by a 12-month free of charge warranty period contract.

11. It should also be recalled that the long-term operational support of the resultant technical environment will be modeled upon the successful approach currently in place for the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) existing finance system AIMS, that is, a contract will be signed with an external partner for the ongoing maintenance support and enhancement of the technical solution. Such a contract will be managed via work packages and administered by a team of internal resources possessing strong business knowledge, analytical skills, and well versed in PRINCE2 project management methodologies and risk management techniques. Moreover, in order to guarantee in-house sound technical knowledge of the newly developed application, the internal team will occasionally be responsible to perform minor enhancements of the system.

ACHIEVED RESULTS – PHASE II

12. By the end of November 2011, the Request for Proposal (RFP) process launched in order to select a suitable external partner for the conversion of the legacy system was successfully completed and the WIPO Contract Review Committee (CRC) awarded the fixed-price contract to *ELCA Informatique SA*, Switzerland.

13. In early January 2012, the ELCA team joined the WIPO team, officially starting the migration project.

14. During the first six months of the project (January – June 2012), ELCA team's main focus was on the analysis and design phase of the project, collecting all necessary business artifacts, software programs, database schemas, rules and regulations in order to perform an in-depth analysis of the current system, and reassess the complexity of the migration project in order to validate technical assumptions made during the preparation of ELCA's fixed price proposal.

15. The outcome of the in-depth analysis is to recommend a strict one-to-one migration of the legacy system and database via automated migration tools, resulting in an identical system functionality and end-user interface, as was requested in the RFP.

16. Transformations of the end-user interface as well as process reengineering may be undertaken as part of a reintroduced Phase III of the IT Modernization Program (please refer to document MM/A/43/1, paragraph 3, for the recommendation of merging Phase II and Phase III with the option to reopen Phase III "where there was a clear business requirement to do so").

17. In order to prove the feasibility of an automated one-to-one migration strategy ELCA will perform a proof of concept exercise by migrating a limited selection of transactions from the trademark legacy system.

HIGH LEVEL PROJECT PLAN – PHASE II

18. Phase II of the Program was initiated as planned in the third quarter of 2010. Tasks from 1 to 10 of the High Level Project Plan presented in Figure 1, below have already been completed; task 11 is in progress. The Program is running according to the following schedule:

ID	Task Name	Start	Finish	% Complete	Q3 10			Q4 10			Q1 11			Q2 11			Q3 11			Q4 11			Q1 12			Q2 12			Q3 12			Q4 12			Q1 13			Q2 13														
					Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul											
1	Project Manager Selection Process	01.07.2010	30.09.2010	100%	█																																															
2	Publication of Expression of Interest (EOI) - First Round	13.09.2010	08.10.2010	100%	█																																															
3	Evaluation of EOI Responses - First Round	09.10.2010	30.11.2010	100%				█																																												
4	Project Manager at WIPO	01.12.2010	01.12.2010	100%							★																																									
5	Publication of EOI - Second Round	15.12.2010	17.01.2011	100%							█																																									
6	Evaluation of EOI Responses - Second Round	18.01.2011	18.03.2011	100%							█																																									
7	Publication of Request for Proposal (RFP)	21.03.2011	20.06.2011	100%							█																																									
8	RFP Due Date	20.06.2011	2011-06-20	100%							★																																									
9	Evaluation of RFP Responses	21.06.2011	30.09.2011	100%							█																																									
10	Contract Review Committee (CRC) Approval & Contract Negotiation	01.10.2011	31.12.2011	100%										█																																						
11	Project Execution	16.01.2012	30.06.2013	25%																█																																
12	Go Live	01.07.2013	2013-07-01	0%																																																

Figure 1- Phase II High Level Project Plan

19. From the above timelines, it is clear that the focus of Phase II activity for the remainder of 2012 shall depend upon the ELCA proof of the one-to-one migration strategy.

20. It should be noted that the strict functional equivalence approach may imply the reintroduction of a Phase III of the IT Modernization Program should additional functionality be required.

21. The total resource envelop of 11.731 million Swiss francs approved by the forty-second session of the Assembly of the Madrid Union (8.731 million Swiss francs) and the twenty-eighth session of the Assembly of the Hague Union (3 million Swiss francs) have not been utilized, with the exception of the salaries and indemnities paid to the Project Manager, therefore, the resources remaining available for Phase II of the IT Modernization Program are sufficient.

22. The next IT Modernization Progress report shall make proposals to the Hague Assembly concerning the necessity for and the resource implications of the reintroduction of a Phase III.

FINANCING OF THE SHARE OF THE HAGUE UNION

23. It is recalled that the contribution of the Hague Union to the IT Modernization Program for Phases II and III (511,000 Swiss francs and 2,487,600 Swiss francs, respectively) was financed through a loan from the PCT Union Reserve Fund (see documents PCT/A/40/6 and H/A/28/2).

24. It is proposed to modify that arrangement so that the financing of the Hague Union's contribution to the IT Modernization Program be assumed by the Madrid Union rather than the PCT Union (see document WO/PBC/19/8), on the understanding that the amount of 3 million Swiss francs shall be reimbursed by the Hague Union to the Madrid Union as soon as the level of reserves of the Hague Union so allows.

25. *The Assembly of the Hague Union is invited to:*

(i) take note of the status of implementation of Phase I activities of the Program that are specific to the Hague Union, as described in this document;

(ii) take note of the progress of Phase II of the Program;

(iii) take note of the possibility of the reintroduction of Phase III of the Program; and

(iv) take note of the proposal to transfer the loan from the PCT Union to the Madrid Union, as stated in this document.

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