

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 (IT) Modernization Program (hereafter referred to as “the Program”) since the last Assembly of the Hague Union (hereinafter referred to as “the Assembly”) in October 2012. The document also serves to update members of the Assembly 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/31/1 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 to produce 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 IT 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 thirty-first (13th extraordinary) session, the Assembly approved mid-2013 as the revised schedule for the completion of Phase II, and noted a total project resource envelope of 11.731 million Swiss francs (3 million Swiss francs approved by the Assembly of the Hague Union and 8.731 million Swiss francs approved by the Assembly of the Madrid Union).

IMPLEMENTATION STATUS – PHASE I

5. A new version of the electronic filing application was made available to a selected group of users in May 2013. After testing, the new electronic filing application will be made available to the general public, replacing the version which had been in use since early 2008.

6. Enhancements included 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 also included 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 were also implemented for checking the format and the size of the uploaded images.

7. 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.

8. The electronic filing application had been made available to a limited number of users in May 2013 and is scheduled for a full release in June 2013, at which date all Phase I activities will have been completed.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION – PHASE II

9. It is recalled that the approved approach to the execution of Phase II of the Program was to perform a one-to-one technical migration of the legacy system to a modern, service-oriented architecture *via* the selection of a qualified external information technology partner.

10. The objective of the technical migration is to convert the legacy application, database and internal workflow, from the programming language Natural and the database management system Adabas, to the programming language Java and database management system Oracle, including the injection of a state-of-the-art Business Process Management (BPM) tool. Achieving such migration will remove the risk of the obsolescence of the current legacy infrastructure.

11. One of the major challenges for the technical migration project is to reproduce a modern web-based end-user interface that continues to be close enough to the current end-user experience in order to minimize end-user's training and learning curve.

12. It should also be recalled that any necessary transformations of the end-user interface as well as possible process reengineering will probably be undertaken as part of the reintroduced Phase III of the Program (see document H/A/31/1, paragraph 16, 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"). Any Phase III activity shall be undertaken within the original project budget envelope.

ACHIEVED RESULTS – PHASE II

13. Following the successful completions of Stages 1 and 2 of the Project (Analysis and Design), ELCA (the selected external IT technology partner) performed by the end of the year 2012 an in-depth analysis of the software code programmed in Natural language in order to reassess the complexity of the migration project and to validate technical assumptions made during the preparation of its fixed price proposal. The outcome of the analysis revealed higher project complexity for the required one-to-one technical migration of the legacy system and database, resulting in the extension of the overall elapsed time for the project completion in order to keep the initial price proposal fixed.

14. The technical migration started with the implementation of the end-to-end transaction related to the reception and examination of international applications and the international registration of trademarks. The Hague code-specific program technical migration is planned to start by the end of 2013.

15. The first four iterations of developed code were successfully installed in the WIPO development environment for the Project Team review, validation and test, during the first quarter of 2013. Test plans were produced in order to perform initial tests and acceptance of the new end-user interface.

16. WIPO custom workflow was mapped in the new BPM tool and validated by the Project Team.

17. A database data migration tool was selected and first data dumps are on-going for testing purpose.

18. The technical migration of the software code programmed in Natural language is progressing well. The transformation of the end-user interface, as well as possible process reengineering, will be undertaken as part of the reintroduced Phase III of the Program.

HIGH LEVEL PROJECT PLAN – PHASE II

19. Phase II of the Program was initiated 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	2010		2011				2012				2013				2014				2015
					Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
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	20.06.2011	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	30.06.2014	45%																			
12	Go Live	01.07.2014	01.07.2014	0%																			

Figure 1- Phase II High Level Project Plan

20. From the above timelines, it is clear that the focus of Phase II activity for the remainder of 2013 shall be the technical migration of the legacy system. New iterations of developed software code will be released during the year, and subject to the Project Team's validation.

21. It should be noted that the strict functional equivalence approach implies the reintroduction of Phase III of the Program, as already recommended in document H/A/31/1. A detailed description of work to be undertaken in Phase III shall be presented with the next Progress Report, and shall be accommodated within the existing project budget.

FINANCING STATUS

22. The total resource envelope of 11.731 million Swiss francs approved during the forty-second (18th ordinary) session of the Assembly of the Madrid Union (8.731 million Swiss francs) and the twenty-eighth (17th ordinary) session of the Assembly of the Hague Union (3 million Swiss francs) has been partially utilized to cater for the completion of Phase I of the Program and the resources remaining available to complete Phase II of the Program are sufficient.

23. The next IT Modernization Progress Report shall make proposals to the Assembly concerning any resource implications of the reintroduced Phase III.

24. *The Assembly 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 that a detailed description of Phase III activities will be presented with the next Progress Report.

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