

Silk News Letter Issue 3 March 2003

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1. Introduction

This third issue of the Silk News letter reaches you from African Eritrea, a country even more in need of Internet connectivity for research and education than the Silk countries (30 kbps for the whole university!).

March has been quiet as far as Silk is concerned. Not that the work has slowed, to the contrary: the Silk Board decisions of February have led to numerous activities that have been taking place. The status overview of the eight sites will show the progress that is being made.

2. Status of Silk sites

The technical team in Hamburg have encountered faults in the transmitter hardware that has to be corrected by Kalitel in the USA. This has delayed some of the shipment plans.

The status per country being connected is as follows:

Almaty: the equipment is still in Hamburg and shipment awaits receipt of repaired transmitter.

Ashgabad: the equipment in Hamburg, commercial planes going to Turkmenistan are too small for the antenna. We are waiting for alternatives such as NGO shipments to Kabul and stopping in Ashgabad.

Baku: the equipment is in customs.

Bishkek: for the second time the Cisco router has faulted and has been sent back to Cisco. The repaired router has already returned to Bishkek and is going through customs.

Dushanbe: the transmitter problem became apparent here and the waiting is for replacement from the USA.

The expectation that all the countries would be operational by this time has not come out. The reasons have been mentioned

above. We now set this target for the end of April, when I hope to bring you more positive news.

An overview of the current transfer rates of the operational countries:

(MB = Megabyte, kbps = kilobit per second)

	Transmit bandwidth	Received data	Transmitted data
Dushanbe:	64 kbps	36 MB	20 MB
Tashkent:	1000 kbps	1650 MB	306 MB
Tbilisi:	700 kbps	1340 MB	372 MB
Yerevan:	64 kbps	403 MB	376 MB
Totals	1828 kbps	3429 MB	1074 MB

3. Silk extensions

The situation regarding extending Silk has not changed since the previous news letter. There are discussions going on with several parties and tests with the Silk infrastructure are being done.

4. Silk logo contest

Several people have responded to the Silk logo contest and some very promising logos have been received. The closing date of the contest is today and over the next few weeks a selection of the logo will be made.

Silk project contact information:

Web page at: www.silkproject.org
Copy suggestions to: R.F.Janz@RC.RUG.NL

drs. R.F. Janz
P.O.B. 11044
9700 CA Groningen
The Netherlands

Tel.:
Office: +31-503638080
Mobile: +31-651183196
Fax: +31-503633406