

Silk News Letter
Issue 4
April 2003

1. Introduction

The Silk infrastructure is becoming indispensable for the countries that are connected to the infrastructure. As was foreseen the availability of extra bandwidth has created extra demand so that the

individual user might not even have the impression that the connectivity for science and education has improved that much.

This

News Letter should give you insight in the progress that has been made

and the plans that are in the make.

2. Status of Silk sites

The technical problems with the transmitters have still not been solved by Kalitel and as a result the implementation of new stations

has come to a near standstill. At this moment five stations are in operation: Georgia, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Armenia.

Tajikistan has one of the transmitters that are malfunctioning what results in frequent down times. Armenia has a very restricted access to

the Silk infrastructure within the country leading to a poor utilisation of the facilities. In april the other three countries have downloaded nearly a Terabyte of Internet and transmitted slightly more

than 250 Megabyte to the Internet. For comparison: in January these

numbers were 608 MegaByte and 169 Megabyte, with only Georgia and Uzbekistan active.

The status per country being connected is as follows:

Azerbaijan: the equipment has left customs, but now there seems to be

a problem with the satellite frequency licence. The issue is being

investigated at the moment.

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

Kyrgyzstan: the repaired router has been re-installed and operation has been running smoothly since then.

Turkmenistan: the dish has arrived in Ashgabat, the transport of the network equipment is being prepared.

Tajikistan: the transmitter problem still exists and operations is at a very low level.

3. Silk video test

At the end of April a videoconferencing test was done. The goal of the test was to prove that the Silk infrastructure is capable of supporting video-conferencing with a quality that is acceptable in learning environments. After some initial problems the final test was very successful. The test did also prove that next to the Silk link the quality of the video conferencing equipment and the local infrastructure is crucial for the quality of the video and audio streams.

4. Silk logo contest

The closing date of the logo contest has passed; 17 logos were submitted. The Silk ExCo is currently judging the logos.

5. Silk Board meeting

The next Silk Board meeting will be in Tbilisi (Georgia) on June 12 and June 13.

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

----- End of forwarded message -----