

Silk News Letter

Issue 8

October 2003

1. Introduction

The Silk News Letter is an electronic news bulletin with an update on

current issues regarding the Virtual Silk Highway project. The news

bulletin first becomes available in English and within a few weeks a

Russian translation is distributed. Older versions of the Silk News Letter can be obtained from the Silk web site:

www.silkproject.org In

the future the Silk News Letter will appear every two months. The project has reached a phase where a monthly edition of the News Letter

does not have enough relevant information.

2. Status of Silk sites

In the previous News Letter (August 2003) we were able to announce the

installation of the last dish in Turkmenistan. Since then technicians of DESY and the manufacturer of the transmit/receive units of the dishes have visited some Silk sites for on site corrective maintenance. This has resulted in improved performance in Azerbaijan.

Unfortunately the Kyrgyz dish still only operates in receive only mode. The status per country is as follows:

Azerbaijan: a few days after the inauguration of the Silk connection

(May 2003) the transmitter problem struck here as well. Since the midst of October the dish is operational again.

Kazakhstan: the equipment was installed at the end of July. At the small bandwidth use of this moment the transmit unit is operating

adequately, but will probably cause problems as soon as the bandwidth use increases.

Kyrgyz Republic: due to the transmit problem there is still only receive capacity. For the return channel AKNET makes use of the Moscow satellite connection that they also operate.

Tajikistan: operations are only possible after resetting the equipment at certain intervals.

Turkmenistan: the Turkmen dish was installed as last of the eight Silk countries. As there is no metropolitan network in place the Turkmen connection is only being used for performance tests. We hope that the metropolitan network will be operational within the next few weeks.

The other sites (Armenia, Georgia and Uzbekistan) are not affected by the malfunctioning transmitter and take full advantage of the bandwidth that is being provided.

3. Silk statistics Q2

The Silk statistics over the third quarter of 2003 are attached as PDF file to this News Letter.

4. Training programme

The Uzbek NREN hosted the first (NATO sponsored) Silk technical workshop in Tashkent from October 13 to October 17. Visa problems prevented some participants to join the workshop, although this did not have effect on the success of the workshop. The participants

were

treated on high level technical presentations of the Silk infrastructure in the Russian language. There was also room from reports form the Silk countries. At the last Silk Board meeting in Baku (Azerbaijan) the Silk ExCo was asked to present a middle

long

term coherent training programme for the SILK NRENs. This programme

will be discussed at the next Silk Board meeting and made public.

It

is the intention of the Silk Board that third parties offer to sponsor a part of the training programme. The next (also NATO

sponsored) Silk

related workshop is on November 13 and 14 in Almaty

(Kazakhstan). The

subject of the workshop is "Integration of Central Asian National Research and Education Networking Associations".

5. Silk AUP

Although all the Silk countries are obliged to provide Acceptable Use

Policies to be able to make use of the Silk infrastructure, there is no umbrella AUP for Silk as a whole. This omission was discussed at

the previous Silk Board meeting and it was decided that a draft Silk

AUP would be discussed at the next Silk Board meeting.

6. Future meetings

Venues and dates next Silk Board meetings have been decided on:

February 6 and 7 2004, Antalya (Turkey).

June 4 and 5 2004, Ashgabat (Turkmenistan)

The NATO networking Panel will meet in Dushanbe (Tajikistan) on November 7 to 9 2004. On November 9 the Tajik Silk connection will be

officially inaugurated in the presence of the Panel.

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