

## **Robert Janz**

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Send reply to: **Virtual Silk Highway Project <SILK@list.rug.nl>, Robert Janz <R.F.Janz@RC.RUG.NL>**  
From: **Robert Janz <R.F.Janz@RC.RUG.NL>**  
Organization: **Computing Centre RUG**  
Subject: **Silk News Letter Issue 1, January 2003**  
To: **SILK@list.rug.nl**

**Silk News Letter Issue 1 January 31, 2003**

### **1. General news**

This is the first issue of the Silk News Letter. The news letter will appear approximately once per month and bring you news concerning the status of the Silk project and related activities. The Silk News Letter is sent to distribution lists in each of the eight Silk countries and to a list of interested persons outside of these countries. All people involved or interested in the Silk project are invited to send copy for this Silk News Letter.

### **2. Per country**

A short update of the Silk status in each country.

#### **Armenia**

The necessary licences have been required. Equipment delivery is waiting for budget for income taxes.

#### **Azerbaijan**

The Silk Board and Silk Task Force have stipulated that the two competing NRENS should come to an agreement before any further progress of the Silk project in this country is possible.

Georgia The Silk dish has been operational (as the first Silk site) since October 2002.

#### **Kazakhstan**

At the end of December at last the licence for operating the dish was received. At their last telephone conference the Silk Task Force

decided on sending the Silk equipment to Almaty.

#### Kyrgyzstan

The Silk dish was received and installed at the end of 2002. On January 20 2003 the official inauguration of the Silk connectivity took place. During the ceremony, where President Askar Akaev was present, Walter Kaffenberger received an honorary diploma of the Kyrgyz Republic and Robert Janz received an honorary doctorate of the Academy of Science.

#### Tajikistan

The equipment for Tajikistan is currently being shipped to Dushanbe. Operations will probably start before the end of February 2003.

#### Turkmenistan

No recent information.

#### Uzbekistan

The Silk dish has been operational since the beginning of September 2002. After some difficulties with the licence operations were suspended for a short time. The Silk connection is now active again.

#### **3. Silk Task Force News**

The Silk Task Force is working hard at getting all the eight Silk countries connected within the next few months. Central Asia is 80% finished and the Caucasus is nearing the 66%. In other words: only two more sites to go.

#### **4. Silk Board news**

The next Silk Board meeting will take place on February 21-22 in Istanbul. If you are a Silk representative and have not received your invitation please contact Walter Kaffenberger of NATO.

#### **5. ISOC**

From Zita Wenzel we received the following message:

I would like to encourage all Silk countries to have an active Internet Society chapter. Here is general information on Internet Society chapters:

<http://www.isoc.org/isoc/chapters/>

There are many reasons for an Internet Society chapter.

ISOC chapters enable you to become more personally involved in the future of the Internet and how that will affect your area.

A chapter brings more focus to local and regional issues and offers the ability to generate stronger input on global issues to the ISOC Secretariat.

Chapters also provide a way of networking more closely with other Internet oriented people in a local/regional area. There is also the opportunity to set up programs and activities that are meaningful to you and your compatriots.

Chapters exist around the world.

Perhaps more importantly, ISOC chapters have been utilized politically as a recognized and organized force:

- the ISOC chapter has been utilized in several countries against the telco monopolies, and legislation that is unacceptable to the citizens of the country, and
- the ISOC chapter fulfills the requirements in RFC 1591 "Domain Name System Structure and Delegation" when there are disputes about country-code top-level domain registry/registrar policies or procedures. These policies must comply with "The Local Internet Community" and the ISOC chapter has been successfully used to fulfill this definition.

I urge you all to help facilitate an Internet Society chapter in our Silk countries. Here is information on how to start a chapter:

<http://www.isoc.org/isoc/chapters/application/>

For more information on the requirements for Chapter formation send

email to [chapters@isoc.org](mailto:chapters@isoc.org).

Sincerely,

Zita Wenzel  
co-Vice President of Education  
The Internet Society  
<http://www.isoc.org/>

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The next issue of the Silk News Letter will be sent at the end of February, after the Silk Board Meeting in Istanbul.

Silk project contact information:  
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