

## SILK Task Force Meeting Minutes: Jan. 17, 2003 – STF-60, v2

**Participants:** Peter Kirstein (Chair, PK), Jane Butler (JB), Rolf Nordhagen (RN), Hans Frese (HF), Ramaz Kvatadze (RK), Robert Janz (RJ), Sergey Bereznev (SB), and Walter Kaffenberger (WK).

### 1 Actions from Previous Meeting

**1.1 ACTION WK:** Inform the Board members about hotel arrangement for Board meeting in Istanbul

Done. Janet will follow up and inquire about arrival and departure schedules of members during the week of 27 January. DESY has issued an invoice for EurasiaSat, which will release \$10,000 to cover the costs of the Istanbul meeting for Board members without own funding, and will make a down-payment to hold the hotel reservation.

**1.1 ACTION WK: Remind Board members to submit arrival/departure schedule for Board meeting in Istanbul – (WK will arrive late on 20 Feb. and depart early afternoon on Sunday).**

**1.2 ACTION ALL: Check that they agree that all sensitive parts are in italics to be removed in SBD version**

Done, but applies again

**1.3 ACTION RJ:** Put final versions of STF-documents (*without texts in italics*) onto SBD web portion

Not done and continuing.

**1.3 ACTION RJ: Put final versions of STF-documents (*without texts in italics*) onto SBD web portion**

**1.4 ACTION RJ:** Complete actions to send advisory paper on dish in Uzbekistan – including PK/RJ sending the letter.

Letter was sent on 23 Dec. 2002, no reply has been received as of time of writing these minutes (22 Jan. 2003). A version of the paper in Russian exists at NATO but might be superseded by events (turn off and on again of the dish on 16 and 22 Jan., resp.).

**1.5 ACTION RJ:** Provide document on requirements for Turkmenistan

Not done. The ASG of NATO has requested tax/duties exemption by letter to Pres. Niyazov of 16 Jan. 2003.

**1.4 ACTION RJ: Provide document on requirements for Turkmenistan**

**1.6 ACTION SB:** Prepare a paper on the technicality of additional earth stations, including the type of information needed for price comparison.

Not done.

**1.5 ACTION SB: Prepare a paper on the technicality of additional earth stations, including the type of information needed for price comparison.**

**1.7. ACTION HF:** Pass on relevant information on World Bank contacts to WK  
**Applies still;**

**1.6 ACTION HF: Pass on relevant information on World Bank contacts to WK**

**1,8. ACTION SB/RK:** Try to improve bandwidth and/or settings to remove echo  
**Done, the quality of the line was much better and without an echo.**

**1.9. ACTION SB, PK, HF, RJ, RK:** Prepare the paper on external provision of extra bandwidth;  
**PK's previous paper needs to be revised in the light of HF's spreadsheets of 12 Dec., updated 17 January 2003 (cf. 5. below!)**

**1.10 ACTION HF and SB:** Find out more about the compatibility of our system with cheap receive-only stations from Gilat (Israel). EMC (Canada) and SAIT (Russia); This is related to Action 1.5.

Ongoing, but it is clear that these stations cannot work with the our system.

## **2 Report on Current Sites**

### **2.1 Uzbekistan**

The whole scientific network in UZ was shut down for one day on 16 January, the dish from 16-22 January. While we have no doubts about its undesirability, new technical possibilities for transmission between Tashkent and Azimut were discussed. No chances other than local political change, was seen to avoid the transfer of the dish (and router) to A., while the cache engine could stay at either site. Additional costs of \$3.000 per pair of modems could be covered from funds available in a Navotny-NIG (RJ). As a policy decision, the attitude to agree on testing possible technical solutions was adopted, while developments in the country would be watched and no extra costs for traffic would be accepted. (Note that it seems there has been a political change, and this development may now be unnecessary).

## **3 Report on Planned Sites**

### **3.1 Tajikistan**

The dish has not yet been transferred to Dushanbe; shipping of the rest of the equipment planned for 25 January. RJ will pay a visit to D. during week of 20 Jan.

### **3.2 Turkmenistan**

Nothing new – we are waiting for Schaumburg to get in touch.

### **3.3 Armenia**

The Equipment is packed and DESY is negotiating shipment with UNDP in Yerevan.

### **3.4 Kazakhstan**

The license received on 27 Dec. 2002 does not permit installation and operation of the dish, but covers future business activities of KazRENA only. RJ will travel to

Tajikistan with Boris Japarov and will take the issue up with him. No equipment will be shipped before the licensing problem has been solved.

#### **4 Report on World Bank Situation (HF, WK and RJ)**

There have been early tests on video conferencing using ordinary workstations. While these were satisfactory, within the limitations of the equipment, they were not adequate for satisfying the World Bank that IP can provide adequate quality. For this they need to do tests with the normal professional equipment of the H.323 or Mbone type. Since the World Bank is using H.323 equipment, it was agreed that this must be used for the tests. It seems clear that funding from the World Bank depends on successful tests, and they would not be prepared to provide any funds until they are satisfied. For this they would like to do four-way conferencing, with two of the sites being in Central Asia. This gives us a dilemma, since no such equipment exists at any of the Central Asian Silk sites, and no budget had been envisaged for this purpose. We agreed that we should try to get such equipment on loan. It is fairly standard equipment, but must be reasonably new. All the equipment earlier than a year or so ago would work only over ISDN; only the recent equipment is IP based. While there many providers, three popular ones are Sony, Polycom and Tandberg. It was agreed that Hans Frese would provide details of the equipment needed to Rolf Nordhagen; Rolf would talk to his friends in Tandberg (Oslo) to see if they might loan units to us for tests. Since the equipment costs of the order of \$15K per unit, it is unlikely that they would provide it free. Hans would look at his budget to check whether rental, or at least the cost of shipping and return, could be met from present budgets.

##### **4.1 ACTION HF: Provide technical information on video conferencing equipment to Rolf Nordhagen**

##### **4.2 Action RN: Contact Tandberg to discuss possible loan of two pieces of equipment for Silk countries**

#### **5 Increase of Bandwidth Schedule**

HF explained the modified spreadsheets, which were appreciated. Negotiations with EurasiaSat (to reduce the costs to \$30K/Mbps pa) will become easier once concrete requests for additional bandwidth from other clients of the Silk network exist. The negotiations will not really start under the availability of additional funds is clarified.

#### **6 Other funding offers (WK)**

Nothing to report (WK was in touch with ISN in Zurich: No deadlines were missed by us; the application for funding of Silk infrastructure is an ISN-internal process and is on the agenda of the new officer who will be appointed soon).

#### **7 Status of VoIP for STF meetings (PK)**

The quality of the voice was now very good for the STF meeting, according to Ramaz from Tblisi.

##### **7. ACTION JB: Ship additional phones to HF**

## **8 Any Other Business**

PK will report to the Panel during the **2<sup>nd</sup> day** of the next meeting, 14 March 2003.

## **9 Time and Date of Next Meeting**

7 February 2003, 17:00 CET – JB to schedule;

PK requested change to 4 Feb. by email of 22 Jan.

**9. ACTION JB: Schedule TC for 4 Feb. 2003, 17:00 CET**

## **10 Summary of Action Items**

**1.1 ACTION WK:** Remind Board members to submit arrival/departure schedule for Board meeting in Istanbul – WK will arrive late on 20 Feb. and depart early afternoon on Sunday.

**1.2 ACTION All:** *Check that they agree that all sensitive parts are in italics to be removed in SBD version.*

**1.3 ACTION RJ:** To put final versions of STF-documents (*without texts in italics*) onto SBD web portion

**1.4 ACTION RJ:** Provide document on requirements for Turkmenistan

**1.5 ACTION SB:** Prepare a paper on the technicality of additional earth stations, including the type of information needed for price comparison

**1.6 ACTION HF:** Pass on relevant information on World Bank contacts to WK

**4.1 ACTION HF:** Provide technical information on video conferencing equipment to Rolf Nordhagen

**4.2 Action RN:** Contact Tandberg to discuss possible loan of two pieces of equipment for Silk countries

**7. ACTION JB:** Ship IP-phones to HF

**9. ACTION JB:** Schedule TC for 4 Feb. 2003, 17:00 CET