PROGRESS REPORT

19 March 2005 to 15 June 2005

Project Update

Project plan

No development work has been carried out as we are still awaiting WPO’s (Work Package Order) to be agreed for release 1.6 of Seed Certification and for REFLEX. The APR for ESP/REFLEX has been agreed and Authority to Proceed has been granted so the first WPO are imminent. Fran Foster met with IBM in Guildford on 17 May to discuss requirements for REFLEX and ESP release 1.6 to ensure that work producing WPO could progress.

Work continues on bug fixing and releases to fix these were made live on 13 April, 6 May and 13 June.

User testing and End to End testing

User testing continues as and when required. The test system has been more stable over recent weeks which has made testing an easier job and the process of making releases to the live system more manageable.

Technical Update

NIAB DIS Box
A new web services solution is being installed between Defra and NIAB to remove the NIAB DIS box and make support much easier for IBM. There have been several technical problems but the system will soon be under test and should be made live in June or early July.

The system was not fully functional for about 3 weeks because changes made to upgrade the NIAB XML servers for the web services solution meant that business responses were failing. This took quite some time to resolve but all parties (NIAB, IBM and Atos) pulled together to provide a solution.

NIAB XML Server
NIAB have made changes to the XML server to reduce the likelihood of it being overwhelmed by a great volume of messages. Volume testing of the end to end system is planned to take place when the new web services solution is in place.

System Stability
Problems experienced with the stability of the test system have greatly reduced and this is now usually available when needed.

There have been significant problems on the live system, in particular with connectivity and log on, and a meeting was held on 19 May between PVS, IBM and ICF to address some of the issues. This lead to the following:
Electronic Seeds and Plants
June 2005
Prepared by: Fran Foster

PROGRESS REPORT

- Servers migrated to windows 2003
- Stress testing of logon to be carried out (testing has been carried out for the single sign on (SSO) service using a different application – we have asked for testing to also be carried out on ESP)
- SLA between NIAB and Defra to be produced
- User group to be set up
- Disaster recovery procedures for ESP to be reviewed
- Crib sheet of question to be used on PVS helpdesk to be reviewed by IBM
- Bulk testing to be carried out
- Check to be carried out to ensure validation on ESP forms is the same as for bulk uploads and IBM to consider what other work could be carried out under preventative maintenance

Progress with XML bulk users

ATS have said that this project is not a priority to them and they did not want to take the lead in developing XML. They also said their customers have not been asking for work to be carried out. This does not fit with the message we have been getting from customers so plan to write to known ATS users and encourage them to contact ATS directly to ask for work to progress.

It was agreed to reconsider the proposal to provide a link between F4F and Seed Certification On-Line which would encourage bulk upload from CAL users. IBM have been asked to reconsider the technical solution proposed last year and the results will be put to the project board when available. F4F have instructed CAL to carry out work to produce the XML we require.

Bartholomew’s are the only company so far who have successfully developed bulk upload and have used it to submit around 350 applications.

Anglia Business Solutions are also developing bulk upload on behalf of Wherry and Son.

Seed Cert Regulations Project

Go-live date for COSACS of 8 August still looks to be achievable. NIAB have been asked to provide a plan for phasing in the automatic processing of forms.

REFLEX

We are awaiting a WPO to allow work on REFLEX to start. This should be available by the end of June 2005. Fran Foster will move to work on this part of the project full time from 1 July 2005.

Finance

Budgets for 2005/06 have been confirmed
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Publicity, Training and Guidance

Demonstrations carried out at premises of

Allied Grain Fishers  Potts
Galagate Farms  Robin Appel
RW Hill  Smales
OC Jewers  J Swain
Matford Arable  J Vergette
A W Page  Wherry
J Picard  G Williams

Planned activities for the coming month

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Target date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WPO for release 1.6</td>
<td>30 June 2005</td>
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<tr>
<td>WPO for REFLEX</td>
<td>30 June 2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COSACS go-live</td>
<td>8 August 2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carry out bulk testing</td>
<td>30 June 2005 (to plan testing)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Set up user group</td>
<td>30 June 2005 (to write to users)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Check to ensure validation on ESP forms is the same as for bulk uploads</td>
<td>Awaiting feedback from IBM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disaster Recovery procedures for ESP to be reviewed</td>
<td>Awaiting feedback from Bob Crooks, ICF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLA between NIAB and Defra to be produced</td>
<td>30 June 2005 (first draft)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web services go-live</td>
<td>30 June 2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Further demonstration at companies</td>
<td>On demand</td>
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