PROGRESS REPORT

29 June 2004 to 3 September 2004

Project Update

Project plan

The Seed Certification On-Line system was made live to all users as planned on 30 June 2004.

Over 1500 submissions have been made on the system since it was made live to phase 1 partners and the following companies have made submissions.

- Allied Grain (phase 1 partner)
- Barenbrug
- Bartholomews (using bulk) (phase 1 partner)
- Church
- GB Seeds
- Monsanto (phase 1 partner)
- MSP
- Syngenta (phase 1 partner)
- Wynnstay (phase 1 partner)

Release 5 of ESP was carried out on 29 July 2004. This was originally planned to be carried out before go-live but problems with the test environment meant there were delays in completing testing.

Since go-live there have been several problems raised through our helpdesk. In particular problems have been raised on:

- Registration and Enrolment
- Duplicate submissions
- Enforcement reports
- Bulk upload

There have been several minor problems which have taken time to investigate and correct but very few have stopped users making their submissions.

We are now working on release 5a which includes several bug fixes for the above. Again the release has been delayed due to problems with the test environment but is scheduled to go-live on 9 September.

A final release (6) was planned to be carried out this autumn. However it is proposed to delay this until end of February 2005 to allow for a greater volume of transactions to go through the system and allow further time for feedback from users. This release will include:

- Interface with NIAB for non-NL variety information
- Interface with PHSI e-Domero system
PROGRESS REPORT

- Final review of screens for consistency
- Provide on-line help
- Changes to enforcement reports
- Minor changes to forms
- Correction of any errors found after go-live

User testing and End to End testing
User testing continues as and when required and is currently being carried out for release 5a of ESP which mainly covers bug fixes. End to end is on going and will be included as part of the acceptance procedures.

Technical Update
As highlighted above there have been several problems with the test environment which have caused delays to releases which have an impact on costs.

A meeting was held with ITD to discuss these issues and for PVS to get a better understanding of the technical architecture. Many of the recent problems have been, or are in the process of being resolved.

There are still problems with the DIS boxes held at NIAB and ITD have been asked to draw up a Service Level Agreement with NIAB so that it is clear what they are required to do.

Progress with CAL, ATS and F4F
No progress with CAL

ATS have not made any further progress on producing XML messages and are proving difficult to contact.

See separate paper on proposal from F4F

Seed Cert Regulations Project
Progress in July and August has been slow due to diversion of IT developer resource to enforcement and other NIAB IT business critical issues. However the last revision of the project plan took a realistic view of likely delays and resources and therefore project completion remains on target.

REFLEX
Fran Foster has been continuing analysis for the REFLEX project with Aki Otsu, system analyst. Work is nearing completion on process diagrams and screen designs. Further work is required on detailed use cases which should be completed before the end of September.

A user group has been set up within PVS and this has met several times to discuss and agree the user requirements. It has been difficult to get all members of the group together and therefore the requirement specification has not yet been signed off. A further meeting is to be carried out to go through proposals again so that users can agree the specification.
We have written to NL/PBR applicants to ask for any users interested in forming an Industrial user group. So far we have had interest from

Rose Brewster (Nickersons)
Sarah Carter (RAGT)
Tony Betambeau (Pioneer)
Kate Jeremy (David Austin)
Peter Dealtrey (Genesis)
Jim Duncumb (Syngenta)

An initial meeting will be set up for October and we anticipate asking partners to carry out testing so they can give their input to the design and specification of the system.

A meeting has been held with ASD Finance to discuss the finance interface that is required with RAMIS and some test work has been carried out.

**Finance and E-nabling**
Changes brought about by Defra’s changes in governance arrangements and switch to IBM mean that there is some uncertainty about funding. Funding was granted for 2004/05 as requested but changes in charging arrangements mean that budgets are again under review. Budgets will in part depend on IBM’s assessment of outcome of an authority project request document which has been submitted. IBM will use this document to understand what is required and to define the support needed. A meeting will be held with IBM to explain the project.

**Publicity**
A demonstration has been held in Cambridge for several local companies who have expressed an interest.

A letter has been sent to all companies and LSTS enclosing the latest version of the user guide for the system. We are also offering further demonstrations in Cambridge and York in September, October and November.

We have offered to provided Internet Explorer version 6 for companies on CD rom so they do not need to download this from the internet.

**Training and Guidance**
User guides have been updated and issued as above, and are available on our web site.

A meeting is being held with PHSI on 16 September so that a sample of inspectors can test the system and see how they will use it for record checking purposes.
PROGRESS REPORT

Planned activities for the coming month

i. Release 5a to go-live in early September

ii. Progress contacts with 3rd party software suppliers

iii. Carry out further ESP demonstrations

iv. Continue REFLEX analysis work involving PVS user group

v. Continue system design for REFLEX

vi. Organise Industrial user group for REFLEX

vii. Begin development work for REFLEX

viii. Meet IBM to discuss project