



SECOND ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Progress report on the upgrading of the Financial Software application by 'Migration to Oracle 11i'

1. The Board of the Centre, at the 68th session in November 2006, approved the 2007 – 2011 Investment Programme. Chapter three of this programme concerned the upgrading of the financial software application and noted that: In 2000, the Centre installed a financial software application (Oracle Financials) as part of its Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) project. It replaced the previous financial application, which had become obsolete and was on the verge of breaking down.
2. It was decided that the Centre needed to upgrade its financial application from Oracle version 11.0.3 to Oracle version 11i as the version 11.0.3 was no longer supported by the Oracle Corporation.
3. Furthermore the version 11i offered many new capabilities, better security and an improved user interface.
4. The project started on April 2007, when, after an invitation to bid made to six reputable companies, the implementation contract was awarded to Confor, an external Oracle-certified consulting firm.
5. The necessary new hardware was successfully installed by the end of May and the 'Gap Analysis' phase was completed on-time by the end of June. As a result, the Centre received a set of standard analysis documents depicting the system-to-be, so that formal approval to go ahead could be given.

-
6. The supplier delivered the first version of the new ERP at the end of July and functional testing was carried out in August and September. The results of the testing phase confirmed that the system had been properly configured to suit the Centre's requirements, although minor modifications were still required. Such results were submitted to Confor for correction and/or incorporation in the final version of the system.
 7. The 'final version' of the Application was delivered by mid-October, so that the Centre could run its acceptance test suite and provide a formal validation of the implementation.
 8. During the project life span, the project team held several meetings with users in Finance, Administration, COORD and Human Resources Services to present the system and get feedback about it. A special group of 'key' end users was formed and separate meetings were arranged with them to present the new system and to check that it would not cause unforeseen disruptions in their day-to-day work.
 9. Training sessions are planned in November and December of 2007. Confor will provide training to users of accounting modules (mainly FINSERV), while the MIS unit will take care of end users' training.
 10. Although the current system will be kept on line for the first six months of 2008, all open financial data will be converted to the new system.
 11. Data referring to closed items will be transferred to the new system in a special data-repository so that they can be accessed even once the old system had been shut down.
 12. The direct cost of this project, funded by the 2007 – 2011 investment programme is USD 610,000 as compared to a budget of USD 620,000 and savings of USD 305,000 will be made, over the next five years, due to the reduced maintenance costs of the new updated hardware.
 13. The overall strategy for the data migration has been defined and is currently under test. The project is on track and the go live date of January 2008 is expected to be met.
 14. This document is submitted *for information*.