

Telecommunication Sector

Projects

- National and International Satellite Network Installation
(Ministry of Communications)



National and International Satellite Network Installation

Project Outline

Key Telecommunications achievements in 1381 (FY2003-2004) include completion of a number of emergency infrastructure projects; establishment of a preliminary policy framework and development plan; private sector investment of around \$USD16.4m; modernization of internal Ministry of Communications management systems; and identification and commencement of a range of investment projects to support the rebuilding of the Telecommunications sub-sector.

As the top priority project, the Ministry of Communications plans to install national and international satellite network to provide immediate coverage to all 32 provinces, where it will provide high capacity communications (voice, data and internet) to all areas equipped with earth station facilities.



National and International Satellite Network Installation

Technical Description

The new network will provide a common infrastructure that can be used by all sectors and government departments including banking, interior, education, mining, health, etc. as well as establish infrastructure frameworks for postal telecenters and a national postal bank. This new system will be versatile enough to also distribute television programming nationally.

This project is essential because currently, there is no national backbone, connectivity or platform to manage international call traffic in Afghanistan, and there are no communication services throughout most of the country.



National and International Satellite Network Installation

Technical Description (cont.)

The key benefits of the new satellite systems will be to introduce basic telecommunication services between Afghanistan's medium-sized cities and remote government offices throughout the country.

The government will have the ability to regain control over international call traffic and related revenue as well as provide basic phone service to thousands of towns and cities. The Afghan satellite network will provide a link to global telecommunication networks and dramatically lower the cost of international calls.



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Project Site

The project will be implemented throughout Afghanistan.

Project Status/Timeline

The project will be implemented as soon as the final financing sources have been identified. Total project duration is estimated at between 3 and 6 months.



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Equipment & Services

The following equipment is required for this project:

- Hub, back-up hub, and infrastructure;
- Satellite access points in "tier 1" cities;
- Satellite access points in "tier 2" cities;
- Satellite access points for 200 other smaller destinations;
- International gateway switch/router;
- Tele-centers (public phones and internet) structures;
- Network Operations Center; and
- Ongoing operations, maintenance and training.



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Project Financing

The total project cost, as per Ministry of Communications estimates, is \$5.55 million.

No funding source has been identified yet but funding is anticipated from the World Bank or other donors.

