

Notes from The RMDCN Implementation Meeting, Shinfield, 20 May, 1999

There were several broad areas of concern.

1. Local contact with Equant

Some representatives had experienced problems in discussing their RMDCN implementation with local representatives, who were not aware of the details of the RMDCN project.

In contrast with their normal practice, Equant has agreed to circulate an initial project description to all their local representatives in the countries concerned and to request them to get in touch with the local RMDCN contact at the RTH/NMC, whose name they will have been given. ECMWF will provide RMDCN contact points with a checklist of topics to be covered during pre-installation discussions with the local Equant representative.

ECMWF urges RMDCN contact points to keep ECMWF informed of any problems, especially if the information held by the local Equant representative is different from what had been expected.

2. Ready for service dates

Some of the Ready for Service dates proposed will make it impossible to run the Reliability Acceptance Test in August, so Equant have been requested to authorise all possible measures to bring the later installations forward as much as possible. ECMWF reported that the Pilot Network had been a useful experience for Equant to revise and modify their procedures for the Initial Deployment.

3. Router configuration

Decisions on what will/ will not be supported are made at a "Centre of Excellence" in Paris, so the procedure is rather lengthy.

Equant configure and maintain all the system routers centrally in Paris and this location is the only user with WRITE permission. ECMWF, in its monitoring rôle, will issue READ permission and can thus ensure that everything is secure and satisfactory from the countries' point of view.

Equant will create access lists for all routers. The default will be to restrict access to the required connections for a particular country.

It is the user sites' responsibility to connect the CPE to the LAN environment and to provide an interface converter between A and B addresses. The router serial interface is Equant's responsibility. Equant will provide a CISCO 2520 with three serial interfaces as a minimum, V35 interface and 2 - 4 metres of cabling to the proprietary interface.

If required, Equant can provide a registered IP address for a site, though countries should bear in mind that, should Equant cease to be the RMDCN supplier, then these addresses would have to be returned.

It should be noted that X.121 addresses will be needed for an X.25 service. These X.121 addresses should conform to WMO conventions.

Equant only supports SVCs, not PVCs; this may cause some problems.

The site designated as the DCE level 2 should provide clocking information. Should a country wish to be a DTE, Equant is prepared to configure their end as DCE and provide the clocking information.

4. **ISDN backup**

It is the responsibility of each NMC/RTH to order its own ISDN backup connection. Countries need information on the details of the primary line routing to ensure that a completely alternative route can be arranged for ISDN. The UK and ECMWF reported that the installation of ISDN at their sites had been rather lengthy and problematic.

5. **Pilot Network Update**

6. **Prioritisation**

Participants gave preliminary details of their prioritisation requirements. A form requesting information from all RMDCN Initial Deployment countries will be distributed soon.