

Broadband Business Fund

PROGRESS REPORT NO. 1

Intended for use by the Broadband Business Fund project, not for external publication.

1. PERIOD COVERED

- 05 January – 24 February 2004 inclusive.

2. ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE PREVIOUS REPORT

- Production of the Demand Registration Mechanism and accompanying form and cover letters (Ref. PQ2A001A)
- Attendance at meetings on 27 January 2004 with DTI State Aid Policy Unit (SAPU), Paul Hadley and Sean Kenny, and Ofcom's Competition Policy Directorate, Jim Niblett and Alistair Bridge
- Production of an OJEC State Aid Option briefing note (Ref. PQ2N003O) and accompanying conference call on 11 February 2004, which agreed the way forward
- Letter to Paul Hadley, DTI SAPU, on 19 February 2004 to initiate State Aid Notification
- Production of an OJEC Contract Notice (Ref. PQ2F002B), issued to OJEC on 23 February 2004
- Development of a Feasibility Assessment Methodology – initial 'draft in progress' issued (Ref. PQ2A003O), particularly to agree the broadband service definition, which was incorporated in the OJEC Contract Notice
- Receipt of information from the partnerships including:
 - ◆ Demand Registration databases (snapshots, as the activity is ongoing) for NP and DDEP
 - ◆ Supplier names and contacts for incorporation in the Supplier Contact Plan
 - ◆ Data and report from the Bell Hanson Mapping exercise for the East Midlands region
 - ◆ Data and report from the Intercai Mondial cluster analysis for LSEP
- Development of a Supplier Contact Plan - initial draft started

3. ITEMS PLANNED BUT NOT ACHIEVED SINCE PREVIOUS PROGRESS MEETING

- Issue of OJEC Contract Notice delayed by three weeks due to changes regarding the state aid risk
- Delay in completing Supplier Contact Plan caused by effort investigating state aid risk.

4. ISSUES AND DEVIATION FROM THE PLAN

- Issue of OJEC Contract Notice delayed by three weeks due to changes regarding the state aid risk
- Plan revised to recognise three week delay and incorporate a six month estimated period to obtain state aid approval (the state aid notification process is now the critical path in terms of timescales).

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5. ITEMS PLANNED FOR NEXT PERIOD

Main activities planned for next period 25 February – 22 March 2004:

- Completion and operation of the Supplier Contact Plan
- Completion of the Feasibility Assessment Methodology and testing the process
- Lobbying the DTI SAPU to action the State Aid Notification procedure for the BBF and fulfilling any requirements to support the notification (eg. completion of a notification form)
- Receipt of further demand registration data and local market knowledge, e.g. suppliers active in the region.