

EARN EXECUTIVE - CONFIDENTIAL TO THE EARN EXECUTIVE

Proposal for the EARN manager

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EARN manager

The EARN budget has an EARN manager in it, and we certainly need one to provide continuous management of our network, both technically, financially and organisationally.

Alain's services are provided by IBM up to August 31 1989, and after that date we would either have to hire Alain for EARN or to find a new manager. There is no doubt that Alain has done a great work for EARN in moving EARN from an IBM sponsored activity and driven the organisation to an independent existence. However, I personally feel that we should now take a fresh look at the organisation to find out what organisation we would ideally want in the future.

I believe that EARN will for many years to come be a member supported organisation and that we will continue to depend on 'volunteer' work from technical people and board members, and maybe also on work paid by EARN but performed on member sites. On the other hand, I think most agree that an operational network should have a permanent staff. As long as it is small, it should if at all possible be concentrated at one, permanent location, the EARN address, to provide a unified, efficient EARN interface to the world.

Right now, we have Alain and Kathy in Paris and Ulrich in Nijmegen. Pretty soon we will have some EARN and DEC development people in Amsterdam and an operations person for present services somewhere. I think we should try to move actively to concentrate as many of the staff at one location as possible.

This location might be an EARN node, the Paris office or the OSI operations centre. The Paris office does not have close connection to a major EARN node. We must probably formally ask the board members if any of them could find an ideal node to host EARN, but in my view, the OSI operations centre is ideally qualified for the following reasons. It is centrally located in Europe. The Dutch PTT is very active, and Holland is a low cost telecom country. We have office space today and computer equipment from DEC. It is on the OSI backbone. It is close to sister network nodes (Eunet and Hepnet), to RARE and to a major EARN node (35 km to Nijmegen).

In short, I propose we recruit the EARN manager in Amsterdam. This manager would be in charge of all EARN matters, both financial, organisational and technical (present services and OSI).