

## EARN EXECUTIVE

Proposal for EARN operation and technical staff management plan  
Draft - revision 1

issued by  
Alain Auroux  
Avi Cohen  
Michael Hebgen  
Jean-Claude Ippolito  
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The following is a first draft of the Operation subcommittee of the EARN Executive Committee for an "EARN operations and technical staff management plan". It includes 4 parts:

- o The general guidelines for sub-contracting well identified EARN technical tasks.
- o The tasks description and associated manpower estimate.
- o A job description for full time EARN technical staff.
- o The current status and coverage.

It should be noted that, although EARN has a budget to cover some of the tasks described below, it is assumed that EARN countries and major sites will continue to contribute to EARN development by taking the full responsibility for some of the items below, and/or by starting new developments, both on current and on future EARN technology.

## 1 General guidelines for subcontracting EARN technical tasks

1.1 Contracts will normally be with organisations. This implies the agreement of the individual performing the work, and individuals manager's approval.

Exceptionally, contracts may be with individuals. In this case, the manager of the individual performing the work will be informed, and the managers permission will be sought.

1.2 Contracts will be on a temporary basis, either for a fixed duration (up to 12 months) or on a 6 months rolling basis.

Ideally, EARN should be able to discontinue contracts with as short notice as possible, allowing the allocation of the previously contracted work to full time staff, when desirable, and in due course.

1.3 Work other than maintenance (development, major re-coding/re-design, documentation etc.) financed by EARN will be the property of EARN.

1.4 EARN will normally cover only the salary (including all taxes, social security etc.) and the travel expenses, when travels are made at EARN's request.

EARN will not cover other expenses, such as local facilities and computer resources.

1.5 Tools support (such as but not restricted to LISTSERV, NETSERV etc.) will be on the basis of full, free, and continuing access to these tools by EARN members, and by members of other networks (like BITNET) as possibly agreed by EARN.

1.6 For all tasks a clear description including the needed tools (specifications and functions) is required to define the quality of service EARN can expect.

## 2 Tasks description and associated manpower estimate.

Manpower to be allocated is described in units "week per month" (W/M) or "day per month" (D/M) and mostly based on estimates by EARNTECH. All estimates include overheads (holidays, education, meetings etc.).

### 2.1 Present EARN tools

2.1.1 Node management, including the master country co-ordination for EARN (BITEARN NODES, MAILER NAMES, XMAILER NAMES)

(1.0

W/M)

	2.1.2 GENROUTS maintenance, development and documentation	(0.5-0.8
W/M)		
	2.1.3 NETSERV maintenance, development and documentation	(1.2-1.5
W/M)		
	2.1.4 LISTSERV maintenance, development and documentation	(1.5
W/M)		
	2.1.5 CNTYACCT maintenance, development and documentation	(0.6
W/M)		
	2.1.6 Traffic statistics gathering and processing	(0.6
W/M)		
	2.1.7 DOMAIN tables (DOMAIN NAMES, BITNET GATES, etc.)	(1.0
W/M)		

## 2.2 Technical assistance

	2.2.1 NCC support and technical liaison (2nd level assistance for NADs)	(1.5
W/M)		

## 2.3 Documentation

	2.3.1 General purpose and user oriented documentation.	(0.5
W/M)		

2.4 Other tasks - Some of them are urgently needed, but are not developed currently because of the lack of resources.

2.4.1 Modelling of EARN traffic, impact on topology

2.4.2 Network monitoring (lines down time, response time and its relationship with file size, ...)

2.4.3 Security

2.4.4 User Interfaces

2.4.5 Gateways

| 2.4.6 Domain addressing (moving to domain style routing and  
| addressing implies major re-writing of the current  
EARN | routing and address software; this point is  
related to | but different from point 2.1.1, 2.1.2,  
2.1.7.

2.4.7 ...

### 3 Job description for full time EARN technical staff

3.1 The tasks assigned to the full-time EARN technical staff are

3.1.1 Technical assistance and documentation (see 2.2 and 2.3). This will represent about 50% of an individuals time.

3.1.2 Leading role in the design (task force mode) of the most urgently needed new tools (see 2.4).

3.1.3 Implementation, maintenance and documentation of designed tools.

3.1.4 Full responsibility for some of the above mentioned tasks with priority to those needing an overall view of the network, such as 2.1.1, 2.1.6, 2.4.1, 2.4.2.

| This represent more that one full time person. It is recommended  
to | have 2 full time technical staff, and to move some of the sub-  
| contracted work to them.

### 3.2 Job qualification

3.2.1 Systems programming experience (2 years minimum) preferably VM/370.

3.2.2 Good knowledge of high level programming languages.

3.2.3 EARN (preferably) or other networking experience.

3.2.4 Fluent English in speaking and writing.

### 3.3 Location

| There are at least two possibilities for the location of full  
time | EARN technical staff:

3.3.1 Working at an EARN node willing to support activities with machine time etc., or

| 3.3.2 Working at an EARN operations centre, if EARN should |  
establish one (the development centre in Amsterdam is |  
one possibility).

| It is recommended to check all aspects of possible remote |  
management and to compare the cost of each option.

## 4 Status

4.1 Agreement reached for EARN funding

4.1.1 Ulrich Giese - Points 2.1.1 and 2.1.2

| 4.2 Status of volunteer work

4.2.1 Bethold Pasch - Point 2.1.3

4.2.2 Eric Thomas - Point 2.1.4 on a limited basis, only maintenance of already distributed copies, no new distribution.

4.2.3 Udo Meyer - Point 2.1.5 maintenance only, no new development.

4.2.4 Dominique Dumas - Point 2.1.6 maintenance only, no new development.

4.3 Proposal for contract

4.3.1 Hank Nussbacher - Point 2.1.7

4.4 Support discontinued

4.4.1 Eric Thomas - Point 2.1.4 no new distribution of  
LISTSERV

4.4.2 Jose-Maria Blasco - Point 2.1.4 no new distribution of  
LISTSEND

4.4.3 Jose-Maria Blasco - Point 2.1.5 no maintenance for his new version of traffic data gathering.