

No 1/90

Test Users for Voice Input/Output and Natural Language Access to DIANEGUIDE

ECHO would welcome hearing from customers that would like to act as TEST users for the recently developed voice operated information service on ECHO as well as the newly developed natural language access version to the DIANEGUIDE database .

As you know already from the previous issue of Echonews, we are currently involved in developing voice input/output versions for a selection of ECHO/CEC related files and would invite as many users as possible to come forth as volunteers to experiment and provide feedback concerning this voice operated service. The service is currently functioning in English, French and German. Access to "DIANEGUIDE" in natural language is functioning in English, French and Italian. If you are interested in becoming a trial user please leave a message in the mailbox or contact the ECHO helpdesk.

+352 420347

DIRECT DIAL ACCESS IN
1200 BAUD

Direct dial access is now available in both 300 and 1200 baud (bits/sec). The ECHO installation is now ready to accomodate the 1200 baud direct dial facility, the modem is up and working and has been connected to the telecomm-processor of the mainframe computer in Luxembourg.

The dial up numbers for both 300 and 1200 baud are as follows:-

300 baud : (+352) 436428
1200 baud: (+352) 420347

Please remember to switch your telecommunications software to HALF DUPLEX (in order to see what you type) and enter (CR) as soon as the carrier signal has been accepted. Good luck !

Connect hour statistics rocket into the 1990's.....!

ECHO is proudly entering into the 1990's on a very encouraging note, i.e. connect hour statistics have recently reached an all time high!

A grand total of 2400 connect hours were clocked up during the course of November 1989, representing an increase of almost 80 percent on the previous year.

This confirms the importance of ECHO's role to introduce users to the world of electronic information services.

We hope that this upward-trend will continue through out the decade to come.....



New databases on ECHO:

a) BASE TR90 : Trend Computing

A new test file called TREND has now been loaded onto the GRIPS software and is accessible with the poolkey 'TR90'. "TREND Computing" is the online version of an ASLIB publication concerning market analysis trends in computing, communications and media. At the moment, the file provides mainly information on recent market trends in hardware and software based on a method for identifying key development.

The range of topics covered is, however, being extended in the near future to cover the domain of telecommunications and source documentation will shortly include journals published in other European languages.

TREND is currently accessible with the following public password:

TREND

or use your personal ECHO password with the poolkey TR90.

CEE: X111/37

IOLIM User meeting



ECHO hosted its first UK User meeting at the December 1989 International Online meeting held in London.

New plans for ECHO and details of the European Commission's information market programme were announced to more than 30 people who attended the meeting. Users were informed about the main activities under the

Community IMPACT (Information Market Policy ACTION) programme; the steadily progressing number of ECHO Users and connection hours per month; details on the availability of new databases and services. A major part was devoted to the two new projects for advanced access to information: NL (Natural Language) access to DIANEGUIDE and a voice operated information service.

ctd page 1

b) IM - News archive file :

Most ECHO users will already be familiar with another bi-monthly CEC (DGXIII) newsletter entitled : IM-News (Information Market News).

If you are not already on the IM mailing list and would like to consult the last 10 issues of the above, why not logon to ECHO with the following public password:

IM

or use your personal ECHO password with the poolkey IM90.

The database will shortly be extended to include other former issues of the newsletter.

EN BREF :

Deux nouvelles bases de données intitulées " TREND" (base TR90) et "IM90" (base IM Archive) sont maintenant à votre disposition avec les mots de passes suivants :

TREND

IM

profitez-en tout de suite !
Ces bases sont aussi accessibles

pour tous les utilisateurs enregistrés (IM90).

c) SDC1 UPDATE:

The SDC1 file has recently been updated to include information on projects currently being financed under the ESPRIT II programme.

d) EABS UPDATE:

A newly updated version of the EABS file was loaded on the 13th December 1989 containing data from January through to July 1989 (approximately 700 new records).

e) EURODICAUTOM :

ECHO is glad to announce that in collaboration with the Terminology division of the CEC, responsible for the production of Eurodicautom, the Grips version of the file receives regular updates from February 1990 onwards.

We are also working with the database producer on a solution that every ECHO user will only have **one** password (the one

ending with a D). This password will give access to Eurodicautom in both forms (GRIPS/CCL version and the original version as used within the CEC).

From now on, new users will receive only one password. Registered users still having a password ending with an "E" may use either password. From 1.8.1990 onwards the passwords ending with an "E" will be withdrawn.

If you would like to know how this will work in the future try your password ending with a "D" and then enter as BASE command:

BASE EU92

The system will offer you the choice and advice you how to select.

Try it - comments welcome!



is a Belgian host specializing in information for business. It has two databases: 1) Le Registre Central du Commerce, containing information on over 750,000 Belgian companies with details of relevant names, addresses and descriptions of their activities and 2) Origin, which contains information from the annual accounts of 750,000 commercial and non-commercial firms paying Value Added Tax. For further information, search within the DIANEGUIDE with the command

FIND EURO DB/HOST

Training diskette

The Dutch and Danish language versions of the CCL training diskette will be available to the public during the course of spring 1990. All other language versions are already available.

Those interested in receiving copies of the above should forward their address details to the ECHO Helpdesk by telephone, telex, fax or just by forwarding a message into the ECHO mailbox. CCL - a start for everybody to the world of Online.

TED corner IEC

Ways to improve the efficiency of EEC Public Procurement Rules

Much has been written on the recent developments of EEC Public Procurement rules. New directives have been adopted, and new ones, for new sectors, will be adopted in the near future.

However, most of the discussion has been centred on the scope and other high-level subjects related to the proposals presented by the Commission.

Down to earth issues such as the way directives are actually made operational are just as important.

First, some general concepts of how directives are adopted and put into practice.

Based on the Treaties, and after extensive analyses that substantiate the reasons to put forward a draft document, the Commission of the E.C. is able to present the Council a proposal for a new directive. At this stage, if not sooner, nine linguistic versions of the document, will already exist.

Then, a whole negotiation procedure starts. The document goes through the Council, the Parliament, the Social and Economical Committee and is discussed throughout these steps, in each country, within their own government structures.

When the final text is accepted, it still has to be generated in all nine languages, be notified to Member States and be published in the Official Journal.

Afterwards, each Member State, using its own specific legal instruments, transposes the directive to its own legal framework.

Then, the people concerned are finally and very gradually affected by the new law. For some specific subjects such as public procurement, the new

legal rules imply changing long lasting habits. This does not take place overnight.

After this introduction, one can easily foresee the difficulties in obtaining both effectiveness and efficiency. There are too many single operations taking place as to allow the transmission of clear, signals through such a lengthy communication channel. To make things harder still, the message itself is also quite complex and long. Public procurement Directive 89/440/EEC, changing Directive 71/305/EEC, has 31 considerations, more than 150 different paragraphs and 6 annexes.

Applying some communication theory, quality control and engineering concepts can certainly be to the advantage of all who have a stake in public procurement.

After having built the necessary legal supporting framework, communication becomes crucial. Establishing shorter communication channels is a good path towards effectiveness. At the same time, the message can be cut into logically coherent subsets that can go through the pipeline with less distortion.

Action is already being taken in this direction. Abiding to the public procurement rules is to be made easier and unwitting infringements will become rare. A more uniform application of these rules is to be expected and it will be easier to read tender notices as these should become clearer.

The present situation is such that the same underlying reality for the object of a tender can be described in such different ways as "200 computers" or "200

workstations, with Unix operating system installed, running CAD software to be chosen, ..., comprising the installation and customer support services".

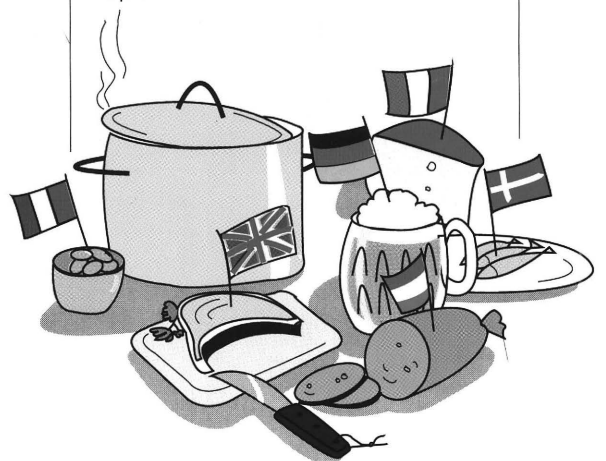
This variety and disproportion can inhibit the interested companies from bidding for markets that would otherwise cause them to react. On the other hand, lack of precision or the use of too specific terminologies can be deliberate tactical weapons having a similar negative effect while giving the appearance of complying with the rules.

Using standardized forms to help draft tender notices by better defining contracting authorities, obligations, seems the best way to guarantee good communication. At the same time, it would allow for enormous savings in producing both TED and the OJ Supplement, as well as a better service level to the final reader.

Having on-line information on each contracting authority can also be a very interesting by-product for prospective suppliers, by providing extra information to help them draft their bids or trigger their interest for future occasions.

The argument that standardizing these forms would be too complicated and burdensome to implement, falls to pieces if there is no obligation to use them. If there are advantages in using the forms and people are made aware of their existence, they will be used.

Going to a greater level of detail and improving the consistency of the overall public procurement system are important steps towards the common goals of transparency and effectiveness. They provide for a better basis to operate in.



TED Legal and Policy Enquiry Service

If you have a question concerning the legal or policy aspects of TED, you now have the possibility of calling upon a separate source of expertise, the TED Legal and Policy Enquiry Service.

This enquiry service is provided by the Directorate General III/F of the Commission of the European Communities in Brussels, and deals with all questions concerning public procurement, in particular, with existing directives in the area of supply and building contracts or directives which are in preparation for services, transport and telecommunications.

Contact the Enquiry Service if you have questions such as:

- What will be changed by the new directive for building contracts (89/4040/EEC) which was published in the Official Journal L210 of 21 July 1989 and which will be in effect for all member countries besides Greece, Spain and Portugal from July 1990 onwards ?
- Why are US tenders now published in TED ?
- For what reason is information on tender results (who was awarded the contract ?) published as "contract award" documents?
- Why some public institutions give information on tender results and others do not ?

Address your questions preferably by fax or telex to :

Commission of the European Communities
Directorate General III/F
"TED Legal and Policy Enquiry Service"
Mr. Stathis Papastathopoulos
200, rue de la Loi
B-1049 Bruxelles

Tel.: +32-2-235 32 96
Fax.: +32-2-235 01 27
Tlx.: 21 877 comeu b



Development of the Common Market for Telecommunications

Introduction:

Access to information has become the key to prosperity and growth. Information is the basic input of the emerging service economy, linking industry, services and markets together. New information technology and telecommunications services are being developed daily. The emerging service economy depends increasingly on telecommunications as its basic infrastructure, providing the means to transport and trade the range of other services. The economic benefit for Europe of 1992 will thus depend in large measure on completing the internal market for the telecommunications sector.

Until now the cost of 'non-Europe' has been high in telecommunications. By the early 1980s Europe was lagging behind in two respects:

- 1) in information technology and in particular the highly integrated circuit components - the famous chips - which form the heart of this new 'intelligent' technology;
- 2) with regard to the updating of regulation, to open up the telecoms sector and realise these new opportunities.

The Commission's June 1987 Green Paper on telecommunications set out to overcome these lags by proposing a programme for the Community, in the light of national developments - a programme of regulatory change

to meet the twin challenges of 1992 and technological development.

The Telecommunications Sector:

Developing Europe's telecommunications infrastructure into the 1990s will prove central to achieving the full benefits from completing the internal market, to improving Europe's position in global economic competition, and to strengthening Community cohesion - constituting priority goals reaffirmed in the European Single Act. The Commission's study of the economics of 1992 confirmed that the development of the Common Market for telecommunications services and equipment now promises major savings to the economy along with improved competitiveness - from a combined equipment and services market of around 80 billion ECUs in the EC. It has been estimated that gains of up to 10 billion ECUs are there to be realised from the Green Paper proposals.

The Green Paper:

The Green Paper launched a wide-ranging consultation process regarding the fundamental adjustment of the institutional and regulatory conditions facing the telecommunications sector. These global transformations are being forced by technological changes including the convergence of telecommunications and computing technology, and the growing integration of spoken, written and audio-visual communication.

Telecommunications took 140 years to develop from a single service to a dozen by the early 1980s. The new technological capabilities will now lead to a dramatic growth and multiplication of services and applications within a single decade.

Mastering this transformation requires readjustments in the organisation of the sector in all Member States, the form of which must take into account the particular position of European countries and the requirements of completing the internal market. The search for common positions in the complex field of future regulation of the telecommunications sector must incorporate a number of major requirements:

- differing regulatory traditions between Member States
- Treaty obligations, in particular regarding the free movement of goods, the freedom to provide services, competition rules, and the common commercial policy
- external relations, in particular with Europe's major trading partners
- social perceptions of new technologies concerning the social consequences of the new technologies and associated regulatory policies.

In order to carry out a coherent updating of the system of regulation, the Green Paper envisaged the implementation of the action lines defined by Council in December 1984, along with six new action lines.

Implementing the existing action lines will involve:

- ensuring the long-term convergence and integrity of the network infrastructure via the RACE programme, the proposals for the introduction of digital mobile communications, the coordinated introduction of the Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN), and the STAR programme for advancing infrastructure in the regions to increase economic cohesion
- full mutual recognition of type approval for terminal equipment
- opening up access to public telecommunications procurement contracts.

The six new action lines of the Green Paper were:

- 1) Creation of the European Telecommunications Standards Institute
- 2) Common definition of an agreed set of conditions for Open Network Provision (ONP) to service providers and Users
- 3) Common development of Europe-wide services
- 4) Common definition of a coherent European position regarding the future development of satellite communications in the Community
- 5) Common definition of telecommunications services and equipment with regard to relations with non-EC countries
- 6) Common analysis of the social impact.

To date, progress on Action Lines 1-4 has been substantial. As for relations with non-EEC countries, December 1988 was the first time that the Community as such participated in an ITU Conference- perhaps the most complex such conference in the ITU's 120-year history. Not only did all 12 Member States sign the final text, but this was accompanied by the submission of a joint declaration stating that they will apply the Regulations in accordance with their obligations under the EEC Treaty.

As for the social impact of telecommunications developments, and the degree of social consensus which can be achieved regarding the changes involved, this was identified by the Green Paper to be the most important factor in the long term for the future evolution of the information technology and telecommunications sector. A programme of research was thus launched in 1988.

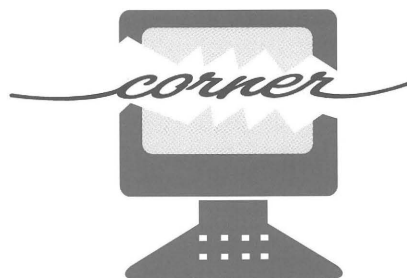
Implementing the Green Paper:

On the basis of the consensus achieved by the consultation process around the Green Paper, in February 1988 the Commission submitted a programme to the Council, the European Parliament and the Community's Economic and Social Committee, for implementing the Green Paper. June 30, 1988 saw the approval by the EC Council of Ministers, representing all Member States of the European Community, of a Resolution on the development of the Common Market for Telecommunications Services and Equipment up to 1992. This was

followed on December 14, 1988 by the European Parliament passing a resolution on Posts and Telecommunications supporting the main policy lines set out in the Green Paper.

Towards 1992:

The Community's programme for implementing the Green Paper constitutes a determined effort to lead telecommunications in Europe towards the 1992 goal of a Europe-wide market which the European user needs. 1992 will mean free movement of people, capital, goods and SERVICES throughout Europe.



Computer Corner

Hidden failure!

During the last week of January, the ECHO service experienced some difficulties following an unusual technical malfunction of the front-end of its computer.

At irregular intervals the front-end appeared to be saturated and for no apparent reason users were unable to logon to the ECHO system. The above led to an immediate in-depth investigation by our computer experts who by Friday 26.01.90 finally located and rectified the problem.

we are now glad to report that the necessary steps have since been taken to ensure that a similar incident will not re-occur, and we would like to apologize to users for

ECHO Training

ECHO will be organising a series of CCL training courses and Information days in various towns throughout Europe over the coming months.

If you would like to become familiar with our retrieval language (Common Command Language), or, would simply like to know a bit more about ECHO and its database range, please contact the ECHO Help-desk for further details on how to register at the following address:

ECHO Help-desk
B.P. 2373
L- 1023 Luxembourg
LUXEMBOURG G.D.

Tel: +352-48 80 41
Fax: +352-48 80 40
Tlx: 2181 eurol lu

For courses please consult:

INFO SEMINARS

COURSE DATES AND LOCATIONS:

Information Days :

Milan	07/03/90 (IT)
Lisbon	08/03/90 (EN)
Florence	27/03/90 (IT)
Luxembourg	09/04/90 (FR)
Groningen	10/04/90 (EN)
Turin	12/04/90 (IT)
London	24/04/90 (EN)
Lisbon	08/05/90 (EN)
Paris	00/06/90 (FR)
Rome	02/10/90 (IT)
London	02/10/90 (EN)

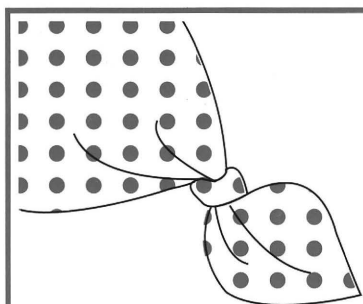
CCL Training Days :

Milan	08/03/90 (IT)
Lisbon	09/03/90 (EN)
Florence	28/03/90 (IT)
Luxembourg	10/04/90 (FR)
Groningen	11/04/90 (EN)
Turin	12/04/90 (IT)
London	25/04/90 (EN)
Lisbon	09/05/90 (EN)
Paris	00/06/90 (FR)
Rome	03/10/90 (IT)
London	03/10/90 (EN)

Database Days: (for experienced users only)

Groningen	12/04/90 (EN)
Paris	00/06/90 (FR)

() course language



DIARY DATES

ECHO will be represented at the following seminars and exhibitions over the coming months:

Exhibitions:

London	Public Markets 18-19/04/90
Paris	SICOB 23-28/04/90
Brussels	Library Automation 09-11/05/90
Frankfurt	INFOBASE '90 15-17/05/90

If you would like to visit our stand at any one of the above-mentioned events, please contact the ECHO Help-desk beforehand to find out if we have any free entrance tickets available.

I would like to order the following videos:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ECHO short (without CCL) | <input type="checkbox"/> TED |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ECHO long (with CCL) | each 15.- ECU |

Language::	<input type="checkbox"/> English	format:
	<input type="checkbox"/> French	<input type="checkbox"/> VHS
	<input type="checkbox"/> German	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Italian	System:
	<input type="checkbox"/> Spanish	<input type="checkbox"/> Pal
		<input type="checkbox"/> Secam

I would also like to receive the new ECHO Manual
(cost price 10.- ECU)

Yes No

Name.....

Organisation.....

Street.....

City.....

Country.....

A cheque of.....ECU is included.
(no delivery without cheque)

ECHO

ECHO News is a bi-monthly publication of the European Commission Host Organisation POB 2373, L-1023 LUXEMBOURG

A service provided by the Commission of the European Communities DGXIII: Telecommunications, Information Industries and Innovation

Phone: (+352) 48 80 41
Fax: (+352) 48 80 40
Telex: 2181

Editor: Bernice Sweeney

Printed by:
Edit -PressEsch/Alzette -
Luxembourg.

The views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect those of the Commission.