Replacement of ACRI Computer File Server (TOOLMAN)

Project Number: CSP99C

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Aims:

1. To replace the computer file server (TOOLMAN) at ACRI Narrabri.

Background:

Prior to the commencement of this project, CRDC provided funds to replace the ageing VAX equipment with modern servers, which are accessed via a sophisticated Local Area Network (LAN). This program has also seen the replacement of dumb terminals with powerful PC workstations on the users' desks, giving them greater processing power and access to secure file storage. The servers are now used more for file (backup and storage of data and information), print and communication services including e-mail and the Internet.

The ACRI computer systems manager identified that the warranty on the existing file server (TOOLMAN) expired in June 1998. He also identified that the cost of maintaining that server far outweighed the price purchase of a new server. Several quotes were obtained for a replacement server that would provide the capacity to meet existing and future needs of ACRI. The machine selected for purchase was a Dual Pentium Pro computer similar to the existing file server 'SICALA' and has been installed in the computer room at ACRI. The replacement machine is much quicker and stores more data than the previous file server.
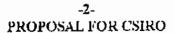
Industry Significance:

CRDC has for many years supported the development and maintenance of computer systems at Australian Cotton Research Institute (ACRI), Narrabri. These computer systems have benefited all research programs through their use in data processing, storage, statistical analysis, modeling and the development of end-user packages. The most cost effective option for maintaining file, print and communication (e.g. e-mail) services at ACRI is to replace existing file servers when their warranty terminates, with new file servers. The cost of maintaining old file servers far outweighs the cost of replacing these servers with a new one.

Summary of Outcomes:

Project Objective Year 1: To order and purchase a new file server and install it at ACRI.

The new computer server (TOOLMAN) has been purchased and installed at ACRI in August 1998 for provision of computing services. This computer provides essential data storage and backup capabilities for research undertaken in the Australian Cotton Industry. Final requirements for the replacement of TOOLMAN were ascertained by May and quotes were sought from three companies for the provision of the new server. The companies were Beyond Computers, Dell Computer Pty. Ltd. and Silicon Data.

Silicon Data were chosen because they could provide a Digital server along with a CD ROM writer and 14 bay Direct Connect CD Tower for a similar price as quoted by the other companies. Being able to obtain a reliable CD writer is important for standard data backup and security, while a CD tower frees up space and resources on the server for installation of software and for executing specific tasks. A Digital server was also chosen for the following reasons:

- The digital server was compatible with the existing server SICALA

- The digital server has been specifically built for running Windows NT

- The current digital server has performed superbly. It has reduced network downtime, thus reducing administration costs.

- Digital suppliers are based in Australia thus providing support on existing equipment and technical issues.

- Beyond Computers and Dell are unknown quantities.

The details of the new Server and accessories are as follows:

Digital Server 5000 5105 Dual Pentium Pro 200 Mhz DP Base System

128Mb 60ns SIMM Memory

64Mb 60ns SIMM Memory

PCI-1-CII Ultra Raid Controller

Battery Backup for RAID Controller

12/24 Gb DDS RDAT Scsi-2 Internal Tape Drive

14" SVGA Colour Monitor

Upgrade to 3 year monitor Hot swap

Redundant Power Supply 450 Watt

9Gb 7200 RPM Ultra-Wide SSB Scsi Drive

Panasonic 8x Read/4x Write Internal Scsi CD-ROM Writer

14 Bay Direct Connect CD Tower

**(Exact quote attached)

The old TOOLMAN server has been decommissioned from main computing services at ACRI and is now being used as a new WWW production server.

PLAIN ENGLISH SUMMARY

Project Title: Replacement of ACRI computer file server (TOOLMAN).

Aims:

1. To replace the computer file server (TOOLMAN) at ACRI Narrabri.

Summary:

File servers at ACRI are used for file (backup and storage of crucial data and information), print and communication services including e-mail and the Internet. The ACRI computer systems manager had identified that the warranty on one of the existing file servers (TOOLMAN) expired on the 5 June 1998. He identified that the cost of maintaining this server far outweighs the purchase of a new server. Several quotes were obtained for a replacement server that would provide the capacity to meet existing and future needs of ACRI. A new Digital computer server has been purchased and installed at ACRI in August 1998. The old TOOLMAN server has been decommissioned from main computing services at ACRI and is now being used as a new WWW production server.

-2-
PROPOSAL FOR CSIRO

Product Description	Qty	$/Unit
Digital Server 5000 5105 Pentium Pro 200Mhz DP Base System FR-PB53AZ-00	1	$24410.00
128Mb 60ns (2x64Mb SIMM Memory) FR-PC77M-BM	1	
64MB 60ns (2 x 32MB) SIMM Memory (Promo Price until 25.6.98)	1	
PCI 1-CH Ultra Raid Controller FR-PCTAR-GA	1	
Battery Backup for RAID Controller FR-PCTAR-UB	1	
12/24Gb DDS RDAT Scsi-2 **Internal Tape Drive** FR-PCXAT-AK	1	
14" SVGA Colour Monitor FR-PCXCV-CY	1	
Redundant Power Supply 450Watt FR-PCSPS-AA	1	
9Gb 7200 RPM Ultra-Wide **SSB Scsi Disk** FR-CFCBA-CA	3	
Upgrade to 3 year Monitor Hot Swap DS-WUCRU-SC	1	
Panasonic 8x Read/4xWrite Internal **Scsi CD-Rom Writer** PCI Scsi Controller, Win-On Cd Software, Pack-It Software and Scalla MM200 Software		
14 Bay Direct Connect Tower with 7 Pioneer 32X Slot Drives (Includes Axis Store Point)	1	

(This is a basically a server in it's own right which you can connect anywhere on the network and it comes with all software/hardware needed to run it)

The above pricing includes full configuration, testing and QA procedure

** Pricing is valid for a period of 14 days from quotation date and all prices quoted are Sales Tax Exclusive.

Please note **Silicon Data** is a signatory to the GITC (NO: 124) agreement and have received "Full Accreditation Status" of Quality Assurance from Department of Business, Industry & Regional Development (NO: 782)