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Consultation Meeting on Implementing WSIS outcomes related to Action Line C2

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Document ALC2/2/06 -E
8 May 2006
Original: English

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ONE LAPTOP PER CHILD (OLPC)

Geneva, 18 May 2006, 15:00-18:00, ITU, room H

‑ an initiative created to design, manufacture and distribute laptops that are sufficiently inexpensive to provide every child in the world access to knowledge and modern forms of education
- OLPC is a non-profit organization dedicated to research and to develop a $100 laptop
- laptops will be distributed to schools through large government initiatives. A commercial version of the machine will be explored in parallel.

Founder, Senior Officers and Advisors

OLPC is a Delaware-based non-profit organization

- Nicholas Negroponte, founder and chairman(former Director of MIT Media Laboratory)
- Mary Lou Jepsen, CTO
- Walter Bender, President, SW & content
- Michail Bletsas, Chief Connectivity Officer
- Mark Foster, VP engineering, Chief Architect
- Jim Gettys, VP Software engineering
- Khaled Hassounah, Director for MEA
- Advisors: R. Allen, M.Bove jr, D.Cavallo, B.Mako Hill, J.Jacobson, A.Kay, T. Machover, S.Papert, M.Resnick, T.Selker, B. Vercoe.

Founding Corporate Members

- Advanced Micro Devices(AMD)
- Brightstar

- Google
- News Corporation
- Nortel
- Red Hat

Each company has already provided $2 million to fund OLPC and the initial laptop design.

Milestones

- January 2005, WEF, Switzerland, official announcement
- 16 November 2005, WSIS, Tunis, prototype unveiled
- 13 December 2005, Cambridge, USA, Quanta Computer Corp(Taiwan, China) to manufacture laptop
- 28 January 2006, WEF, Switzerland, UNDP-OLPC partnership

ABOUT THE $100 LAPTOP PROJECT

- Linux-based
- 500 MHZ processor
- 128 DRAM
- 500 MB flash memory
- Dual-mode display
- No hard disk but 4 USB ports
- Wireless broadband(mesh network)
- Internet connection
- Innovative power

The laptops will have wireless broadband that will allow them to work as a mesh network
Each laptop will be able to talk to its nearest neighbors, creating an ad hoc LAN
The laptops will be able to do almost everything except store huge amounts of data
They are both a window into the world and a tool with which to think(to learn learning)

PROJECT PHASING and IMPLEMENTATION

- over 5.000.000 laptops ordered and paid in advance in 2005
- early shipments(Q1 2007) are planned in 7 culturally diverse countries (Argentina, Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Nigeria and Thailand)
- an additional allocation of machines has been decided to seed developer communities in a number of other selected countries
- a commercial version is being explored in parallel

The governments will buy the machines to be given cost-free to students in well specified but large pilot projects

In the case of LDCs and poor countries, UNDP works closely with OLPC and other UN agencies to assist national governments to deploy the laptops to targeted public schools with a variety of internal and external funding sources.