

For: FSA Service Center Employees

Implementing Universal Telecommunications Network (UTN)

Approved by: Acting Deputy Administrator, Management



1 UTN Implementation

A Background

The USDA Information Technology Services (ITS) organization will migrate the current network, the Service Center Agency (SCA) Virtual Private Network (VPN), to the new USDA UTN backbone. The new network is Multi-Protocol Label Switching VPN provided by AT&T Government Solutions. This implementation will provide a secure, high available network improving performance for offices.

This migration for the 2,939 sites with current network connectivity will take place between May 2006 and March 2007. The first 20 pilot sites to fully test the requirements of the new network will be identified in the near future. These sites will be implemented between May and June 2006. The circuit orders for these sites have been placed. AT&T representatives will be contacting the pilot sites about the installation. These circuits will run in parallel to the existing circuits. ITS will send second routers to each of the pilot sites for these circuits. ITS will work with each site to ensure that there is adequate space for the additional router. This router will be installed by the ITS Technical Support Division. AT&T and ITS will not cut the first 20 sites over from the legacy MCI network to UTN until all testing has been completed successfully. It is estimated that this will take place by July 2006.

As part of the implementation, various vendors will be installing new data communications connectivity at the employee's location. Local on-site contact information is being provided for the sites from the current Office Information Profile and database. The project requires assistance in the coordination of the installation as well as accessibility to the site. Various technicians will require access to the equipment during normal business hours (Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. local time). Written notice of the implementation will come to field service center directly from AT&T.

B Purpose

This notice provides information on ITS' plans to migrate the current network, SCA VPN, to the new USDA UTN backbone between May 2006 and March 2007.

Disposal Date	Distribution
May 1, 2007	All FSA employees; States relay to Service Centers

Notice IRM-369

1 UTN Implementation (Continued)

C Timeline

The timeline for the 20 pilot sites is as follows:

- mid-April: orders placed
- mid-May: local telephone provider will deliver circuit
- end of May: equipment will be configured and shipped, vendor (Concert) will be scheduled to run inside wire (extended demarc) and install equipment, and test will be performed with AT&T and ITS.

Note: These dates will be communicated to the pilot sites.

The implementation of SCA UTN will provide ITS with improved network performance and assist ITS in delivering great customer services.

D Contacts

Direct any questions about this notice to either of the following:

- Louis Iacoletti, ITSD, by either of the following:
 - telephone at 202-720-5320
 - e-mail to louis.iacoletti@wdc.usda.gov
- Steve Sanders, Director, ITSD, by either of the following:
 - telephone at 202-720-5320
 - e-mail to steve.sanders@wdc.usda.gov.

E UTN Major Project Link

The web site, <https://iod.sc.egov.usda.gov>, will be used to track the schedule for all sites and will contain all contact information. Click on “UTN Project” under “Major Projects”.

Following the pilot, the remaining offices will be implemented. ITS will need support in addressing any office change, such as new offices, moves, and closures. ITS will need close coordination to ensure that network connectivity is provided from the appropriate vendor. ITS will track this information by having the office point of contact post this information to the Field Service Center Update Discussion Board on the web site.