

DATA COMMUNICATION NETWORK SERVICE (TESTA / TESTA NG) (2016.02)

Type of Activity	Common Services
Service in charge	DIGIT.C.4
Associated Services	

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The TESTA-ng network service is the continuation of an existing action of the ISA Programme. A number of sectorial networks are currently using the TESTA services for their sectorial applications (OLAF, DG MOVE, DG EMPL, DG HOME, DG SANTE, CDT, DG JUST, DG ECHO and DG TRADE), while other DGs have requested to use the network for their trans-European systems in the future (e.g. DG TAXUD). The network is also used by the European Institutions and the European agencies. In addition, the TESTA framework is also extensively used by DG HOME for the implementation of the SIS II and VIS II networks and EUROPOL for the implementation of their own dedicated EUROPOL network. Also, the General Secretariat of the Council is using the TESTA framework contract for the implementation of the FADO network, the Council Extranet and Courtesy networks.

The TESTA network is also used in the context of non-Community projects by Member State administrations or organisations acting on their behalf under certain conditions as described in the TESTA Memorandum of understanding. One of the most successful non-community programmes is the trans-border police cooperation in the context of the Prüm treaty and the Financial Intelligence Unit network in the context of money laundering.

Currently TESTA is preparing the next evolution in order to keep abreast of the latest technologies and developments and to achieve DIGIT's vision of becoming the sole and only network of choice of the European Union that handles all data transactions between Member State, EU Institutions, EU Agencies, EFTA Countries, Accessing Countries and members of community programs. In this perspective a taskforce has been set-up in order to investigate the future governance model, architecture and procurement.

OBJECTIVES

TESTA is primarily focusing on the following objectives:

1. **Connectivity:** The provision of a highly available, extendable, flexible and secured communication infrastructure between public administrations in Europe, so that current and future communication needs between these administrations can be covered;
2. The consolidation of existing data networks independently managed by other Institutions or European bodies.
3. **Security:** The provisioning of a secured, RESTREINT UE accreditable (if required) communication infrastructure;
4. **Support:** Provision of a central support infrastructure that can act as a single point of contact for trouble shooting, support to sectors and administrations, alert management and reporting;

5. Management: The overall project management as well as service management and administrative management of the TESTA networking services;
6. Assistance: The provision of assistance services dedicated to control and audit of the operational networking services.

SCOPE

The scope of TESTA is to exchange electronic data between administrations in Europe in a secure, reliable and efficient way. It is dedicated to inter-administrative requirements and is providing guaranteed performance levels and security.

- facilitate cooperation between public administrations;
- create interoperability at EU level through shared generic solutions;
- consolidation of existing parallel networks by providing secure reliable and flexible building blocks;
- cost reduction;
- and the provision of an extended catalogue of generic services (Collaboration tools, PKI, secure mail ...)

are the main driving forces for the new TESTA-ng.

TESTA-ng will be operated as a fully resilient network always having a look into confidentiality, integrity and availability.

ACTION PRIORITY

According to art. 7 of the ISA² decision the following points are applicable to the action:

Contribution to the interoperability landscape

The contribution of the action to the interoperability landscape, measured by the importance and necessity of the action to complete the interoperability landscape across the Union

Question	Answer
<i>Does the proposal directly contribute to implementing the European Interoperability Strategy, the European Interoperability Framework, or other EU policies with interoperability requirements, or needed cross-border or cross-sector interoperability initiatives? If yes, please indicate the EU initiative / policy and the nature of contribution.</i>	The nature of the TESTA project "trans border data communication" makes that TESTA as underlying communication infrastructure is directly contributing to cross border interoperability. Various policy areas (trans-border police cooperation, money laundering, asylum policy etc...) are directly served via the TESTA initiative.
<i>Does the proposal fulfil an interoperability need for which no other alternative solution is available?</i>	Due to the security layer (confidentiality, integrity, availability needs) and the private nature of the communication infrastructure centrally securely managed, no alternative solutions are for the moment available. Possible alternative communication

	infrastructures like the TAXUD CCN network, are merging with TESTA.
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Cross-sector

The scope of the action, measured by its horizontal impact, once completed, across the sectors concerned

Question	Answer
<i>Will the proposal, once completed be useful, from the interoperability point of view, and utilised in two (2) or more EU policy areas? If yes, which are those?</i>	
<i>For proposals or their parts already in operational phase: have they been utilised in two (2) or more EU policy areas? Which are they?</i>	TESTA is the undelaying secured transport platform for many policy areas. Justice and Home Affairs, Health, Transport, Trade, Employment are examples of policy areas that rely since years on TESTA.

Cross-border

The geographical reach of the action, measured by the number of Member States and of European public administrations involved.

Question	Answer
<i>Will the proposal, once completed be useful, from the interoperability point of view, and used by public administrations of three (3) or more EU Members States?</i>	-
<i>For proposals or their parts already in operational phase: have they been utilised by public administrations of three (3) or more EU Members States?</i>	Yes. TESTA is covering the whole territory of the European Union, EFTA Countries and Acceding Countries

Urgency

The urgency of the action, measured by its potential impact, taking into account the lack of other funding sources

Question	Answer
<i>Is your action urgent? Is its implementation foreseen in an EU policy as priority, or in EU legislation?</i>	The continuation of the funding of this action for 2017 is urgent in order to guarantee the continuity of the services to the current stakeholders.
<i>Does the ISA² scope and financial capacity better fit for the implementation of the proposal as opposed to other identified and currently available sources?</i>	Since ISA ² is focussing on new initiatives, the long-term financial sustainability has been questioned. Alternative funding mechanisms as from 2018 are under investigation.

Reusability of action outputs

The re-usability of the action, measured by the extent to which its results can be re-used

Can the results of the proposal be re-used by a critical part of their target user base, as identified by the proposal maker? For proposals or their parts already in operational phase: have they been re-used by a critical part of their target user base?

Name of reusable solution	TESTA
Description	
Reference	
Target release date / Status	
Critical part of target user base	
For solutions already in operational phase - actual reuse level (as compared to the defined critical part)	One of the main objectives of TESTA was "network consolidation". In this perspective a common data communication infrastructure has been set up and is used and reused by many policy areas. The last decade TESTA as actively avoided the proliferation of communication infrastructures dedicated to one application.

Level of reuse by the proposal

The re-use by the action of existing common frameworks and elements of interoperability solutions.

Question	Answer
Does the proposal intend to make use of any ISA ² , ISA or other relevant interoperability solution(s)? Which ones?	TESTA can offer technical support for the delivery of other interoperability solutions to the TESTA community.
For proposals or their parts already in operational phase: has the action reused existing interoperability solutions? If yes, which ones?	TESTA is reusing existing interoperability solutions such as CIRCABC, EU Survey.

Interlinked

The link of the action with Union initiatives to be measured by the collaboration and contribution level of the action to Union initiatives such as the DSM.

Question	Answer
Does the proposal directly contribute to at least one of the Union's high political priorities such as the DSM? If yes, which ones? What is the level of contribution?	As underlying secured communication infrastructure TESTA contributes directly via the information systems that are using TESTA to the implementation of the Digital Single Market

PROBLEM STATEMENT

The last migration from sTESTA (Secured TESTA) to TESTA-ng (TESTA New Generation) proved to be more difficult than the previous ones owing the large span of activities and the new contractor. It is therefore time to have a broad reflection on different aspects of the future of TESTA, in order to consolidate its existence and provide more added value services within a smooth process.

In line with the DIGIT management plan, it has been decided to launch a taskforce to address the following topics:

- Achieve financial independence
- Achieve flexibility in procurement
- Achieve Governance independence

- Achieve excellence in service delivery and service offering (competitive advantage)
- Provide High Bandwidth to each connection point
- Align to EU initiatives and proposals.

EXPECTED BENEFICIARIES AND ANTICIPATED BENEFITS

Beneficiaries	Anticipated benefits
Specific sectors	Ability for sectors and agencies to use a secured trans-European network service for the exchange of data with specific availability or security requirements over a shared quality solution. Prevents proliferation of uncontrolled networks.
Member States' public administrations	Ability for MS administrations to use a secured trans-European network service for the exchange of data with specific availability or security requirements, with EU Institutions, EU agencies and other MS administrations. The provided solution is managed and the access points are under control of the MS administrations.
EU institutions and agencies	Avoids the unnecessary implementation of costly shadow network infrastructures.
Non-community programs	TESTA can be used in the context of a non-Community project by Member States administrations or organisations acting on their behalf under certain conditions described in the TESTA Memorandum of understanding. It stimulates the re-usage of an existing infrastructure.
Citizens and enterprises	Citizens and enterprises are out of the scope of the TESTA networking services but are indirectly benefiting due to the protection of the personal data on the level of the network.

ORGANISATIONAL APPROACH

Expected stakeholders and their representatives

Stakeholders	Representatives
EU institutions, Member States gov., EEA countries, Candidate countries, EU Agencies	TESTA representatives

Identified user groups

Working group on “TESTA (*Trans European Services for Telematics between Administrations*)”,

Communication plan

The main pillars on which the Communication Strategy will be based are the following:

1. TESTA-ng awareness and engagement to the programme's initiatives.
2. Collection of user's feedback.
3. Knowledge management.
4. Promotion of current and future services under TESTA-ng.

Event	Representatives	Frequency of meetings / Absolute dates of meetings?	Communication Channel
TESTA workshop	TESTA national experts/EU Institutions/EU Agencies/	2 times a year	Face to face meetings
TESTA stakeholders	EU Institutions / EU Agencies/ national governments / National, Regional, Local Administrations / European Commission services	On demand	Virtual meetings
TESTA SAP	EU Member States NSA representatives	On hold up until activation on request	

Governance approach

The TESTA approach is collaborative: it builds on national efforts to establish national, regional or local administrative networks by forging these to a trans-European network. In this so called domain based approach, every connected domain will have to fulfil the necessary security, performance and organisational requirements in order to obtain a full access to the TESTA network. In addition to the default setup, administrations might decide to implement additional access points and closed user groups or secured network services on the existing TESTA infrastructure. The budgetary impact of such a decision will fall under their responsibility. The TESTA network is controlled and supported by a central support and operation service, responsible for all operational issues, including the security management of encryption devices.

DIGIT C4 responsible for network infrastructure services at the European Commission has the organisational and contractual control over the execution of the TESTA Framework Contract. This organisational approach guarantees the operational and technical sustainability.

TECHNICAL APPROACH

The technical design is based on a fully meshed, fully encrypted layer 2 backbone connected each node with resilient 10Mbit (minimum) but with enough expansion capacity to handle future needs as they arise. Day-to-day operations are managed from a Security and Operations Centre in Kosice (Slovakia) and backed-up by a warm-standby site in Berlin (Germany). Data Services are provided from a fully resilient site in Munich (Germany) with a hot backup site located in Vienna (Austria).

The bulk of migration has been completed by mid of 2016 for all major deliverables with minor elements to be delivered by year end. In the meantime, the project has gradually transited into operational phase from mid-2016 and is now into continuous assessment and monitoring.

Whilst in 2017 we are expecting the project to remain in the same stable operational phase as achieved in mid-2016, we shall actively be kick-starting the deployment of enhanced services such as secured email, secured FTP and secured video conferencing, elements that have been requested by the community and are designed to enhance the services portfolio of TESTA.

Due to the issues we had with the acceptance of deliverables, our consultants had to perform more than average visits to the sites ie: Kosice, Berlin, Vienna and Munich and more iterative audits till the main elements of the project were brought in line with the requirements set in the CFT. For 2017, we foresee less audits and minor acceptance sessions (as all major deliverables will be accepted in 2016) however we are foreseeing an increase in consultancy and testing work required with respect to the new services we shall be deploying.

COSTS AND MILESTONES

Breakdown of anticipated costs and related milestones

Phase: Initiation Planning Execution Closing/Final evaluation	Description of milestones reached or to be reached	Anticipated Allocations (KEUR)	Budget line ISA/ others (specify)	Start date (QX/YYYY)	End date (QX/YYYY)
Closing	Finalisation of Migration	118	ISA ²	Q3/2015	Q4/2016
Operational	Net Operations	732	ISA ²	Q2/2016	Q4/2016
Execution	Auditing and Assessment	1,650	ISA ²	Q1/2016	Q4/2016
Operational	Net Operations	1,546	ISA ²	Q1/2017	Q4/2017

Execution	Auditing, Consultancy & Assessment	1,000	ISA ²	Q1/2017	Q4/2017
Initiation	Deployment of new Services	1,000	ISA ²	Q1/2017	Q4/2017
	Total	6,046			

1.1.1.1 Breakdown of ISA² funding per budget year

Budget Year	Phase	Anticipated allocations (in KEUR)	Executed budget (in KEUR)
2016	Implementing, Operating, Execution	2500	
2017	Operating, Execution & Development	3546	
2018			
2019			
2020			