

## Data Sheet

<b>USAID Mission:</b>	Africa Regional
<b>Program Title:</b>	Improve Partner Communications
<b>Pillar:</b>	Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade
<b>Strategic Objective:</b>	698-030
<b>Status:</b>	New in FY 2005
<b>Planned FY 2005 Obligation:</b>	\$2,900,000 DA
<b>Prior Year Unobligated:</b>	\$0
<b>Proposed FY 2006 Obligation:</b>	\$1,000,000 DA
<b>Year of Initial Obligation:</b>	2005
<b>Estimated Year of Final Obligation:</b>	2009

**Summary:** The program support objective concentrates on enhancing the effectiveness, impact, and efficiency of Africa Bureau technical programs and on enhancing communication. These cross-cutting support functions include public communication technology, public information, policy formulation, and assistance. The Leland Initiative is the major USAID program for bringing information and communications technologies to the people of Africa.

Since its launch in 1996, the Leland Initiative has established the national Internet gateways in 12 countries, grown a robust industry of private Internet services providers and cybercafé operators in 25 countries, and helped thousands of institutions learn to harness the power of the Internet for all facets of development. It has also helped policymakers gain access to information to make informed decisions. Through the Leland Initiative, USAID partners with host-country governments, African telephone companies, entrepreneurs, development institutions, and the U.S. private sector to introduce and establish modern information and communication technologies and practices. USAID offers assistance in three broad, interdependent areas: (1) policy: helping partners enact and implement pro-competitive policies and regulations promoting access to and increased use of modern information/communication practices; (2) pipes: introducing appropriate wireless and optical technologies to increase the supply of Internet and related technologies in host countries; and (3) people: strengthening the capacity of African institutions (universities, schools, businesses, non-governmental organizations, and governments) to use the new information and communication approaches. The Leland Initiative has formed numerous public-private alliances through which it implements program activities.

### Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

**FY 2005 Program:** Improve Economic Policy and Governance (\$550,000 DA): NetTel@Africa will complete the first cycle of degree programs, explore the addition of expanded coursework, and work with regional regulatory associations to fully launch their capacity-building and advocacy programs. Prime contractors: Washington State University Center to Bridge the Digital Divide, Computer Frontiers, and DC Information Systems.

Expand and Improve Access to Economic and Social Infrastructure (energy, ICT, telecommunications, transportation, power, irrigation, schools and health clinics) (\$2,350,000 DA). This component will be implemented working in the two broad areas of introducing technology and training/capacity building:

Introduce current wireless and optical technologies: Leland will focus on strengthening the ability of the U.S. and African private sectors to link undersea fiber optic cables running along the coast of Africa with the burgeoning wireless links into rural areas of African countries. Partners: DC Information Systems (prime), Computer Frontiers (sub), and National Telecommunication Cooperative Association (sub).

Conduct training and capacity building: USAID will continue programs to strengthen the capacity of staff working in African institutions (universities, schools, businesses, non-governmental organizations, and governments) to use the new information and communication approaches, with an emphasis on links between similar institutions in different countries. Contractors include DC Information Systems (prime), Computer Frontiers (sub), and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

**FY 2006 Program:** Improve Economic Policy and Governance (\$550,000 DA): The FY 2006 policy discussions will focus on ways to increase access to technology and make it more affordable, and to enable countries to encourage competition and service. Contractors: same.

Expand and Improve Access to Economic and Social Infrastructure (energy, ICT, telecommunications, transportation, power, irrigation, schools and health clinics) (\$450,000 DA). This component will again be implemented working in two broad areas:

Introduce current wireless and optical technologies: Synergies between American and African firms will be expanded. Fiberoptic cables will be laid in rural areas to increase the dissemination of agricultural production, education, and health care information. More alliances will be built with and among African companies, and international investment will be encouraged. Contractors: same.

Conduct training and capacity building: Emphasis will be placed on training people in the rural areas to use technology to assist in their personal and professional lives. Contractors: same.

**Performance and Results:** In FY 2004, the Leland Initiative was used extensively in Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, and South Africa for regulatory reforms. In Kenya, national and internal Internet backbones were opened to competition, which will help to lower costs. In Nigeria, the first privately managed Rural Access Fund in Africa will support telephone and Internet access to 100 million people in rural areas. In South Africa, "Voice over Internet Protocol" services can now be offered by a wide variety of competitors, leading to a more economical and vigorous communication market, and new wireless technologies are more widely available in rural areas at a lower cost. A regional Leland alliance with the Information Technology Association of America led to the organization of information technology and services associations to promote competitive national policies in six African countries.

The Leland Initiative was also helpful in promoting diplomacy in Senegal. The latest wireless technologies have been employed to help Senegal establish an e-Diplomacy Initiative, which uses Web-based access to promote business, manage visas, and operate citizen services programs. This successful pilot will be expanded to additional missions throughout the Senegal diplomatic corps.

Finally, Leland helped African and partner institutions develop more effective information and communication technology strategies. Unigraphics Corporation, working with Tuskegee, Prairie View, and Southern universities, built a manufacturing software management capability into the engineering curriculum at Makerere University in Uganda. The partners contributed almost \$5 million worth of software and expertise to develop this curriculum that is now ready to be replicated at other African engineering schools.

Successful completion of this SO will help the African continent deal with a wide range of information and communications challenges, including extending Internet access to its largely unserved population; narrowing the digital divide between Africa and industrialized countries and between the "have" and "have not" countries in Africa; adopting a regulatory environment that favors competition and innovation for broader, cheaper and more reliable telecommunications access; and ensuring that Africa can participate in the electronic revolution in commerce, government and education. Upon completion of its activities, this SO expects to have used capacity building and policy advocacy to improve Africans' access to modern technology that will have enabled them to participate in the world economy.

## US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Africa Regional

698-030 Improve Partner Communications	DA
<b>Through September 30, 2003</b>	
Obligations	0
Expenditures	0
Unliquidated	0
<b>Fiscal Year 2004</b>	
Obligations	0
Expenditures	0
<b>Through September 30, 2004</b>	
Obligations	0
Expenditures	0
Unliquidated	0
<b>Prior Year Unobligated Funds</b>	
Obligations	0
<b>Planned Fiscal Year 2005 NOA</b>	
Obligations	2,900
<b>Total Planned Fiscal Year 2005</b>	
Obligations	2,900
<b>Proposed Fiscal Year 2006 NOA</b>	
Obligations	1,000
Future Obligations	9,759
Est. Total Cost	13,659