

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Africa Regional
Program Title:	Leland Initiative: African Information Technology
Pillar:	Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade
Strategic Objective:	698-016
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$500,000 DA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:	\$872,000 DA
Year of Initial Obligation:	FY 1999
Year of Final Obligation:	FY 2004

Summary: The Leland Initiative is the USAID strategy for bringing information and communications technologies to the people of Africa. Since its launch in 1996, it has established the national Internet gateways in 10 countries, grown a robust industry of private Internet services providers and cybercafe operators in 25 countries, and helped thousands of institutions learn to harness the power of the Internet for development. 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 gives 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 the latest 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 a number of public-private alliances through which it implements its program activities.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2004 Program:

Assist African Governments in Policy Formation (\$550,000 DA): Experience around the world indicates that an independent, competent regulatory entity is necessary to stimulate a robust private sector telecommunications industry. Many African countries are in the process of setting up such entities, but few have the capacity to effectively establish or regulate a pro-competitive level playing field. Leland activities in previous years saw the establishment and strengthening of regional associations of regulators in Southern, Eastern and Western Africa, as well as the launching of NetTel@Africa. NetTel@Africa is a growing public-private capacity-building alliance among African regulatory officials, U.S. entities such as the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), and leading African and U.S. universities. USAID and its NetTel@Africa partners will finalize the regulatory capacity-building curriculum and implement a pilot degree program for regulators and others who complete the full curriculum. Prime contractors: Washington State University Center to Bridge the Digital Divide, Computer Frontiers, and DC Information Systems (on policy issues).

Introduce Current Wireless and Optical Technologies (\$200,000 DA): USAID will expand successful wireless rural access approaches to additional countries and proceed to full implementation with the satellite digital broadcast library. Partner: General Services Administration (GSA). Contractors: DC Information Systems (prime), Computer Frontiers (sub), National Telecommunications Cooperative Association (sub).

Conduct Training and Capacity Building (\$250,000 DA): USAID will undertake 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 national education networks such as the Kenya Education Network. Contractors include DC Information Systems (prime) and Computer Frontiers (sub). Partner: the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

A follow-on strategic objective will begin in FY 2004 and will be notified separately upon approval.

FY 2005 Program:

Assist African Governments in Policy Formation (\$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: Same as above.

Introduce Current Wireless and Optical Technologies (\$200,000 DA): Leland will focus on strengthening the ability of the U.S. and African private sector to link undersea fiber optic cables running along the coast of Africa with the burgeoning wireless links into rural areas of African countries. Partner: Same as above.

Conduct Training and Capacity Building (\$250,000 DA): 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. Partner: Same as above.

Performance and Results: In FY 2003, the governments of Uganda, Niger and Senegal used Leland Initiative assistance to initiate significant regulatory reforms to open their telecommunication markets to competition. On a regional scale, the Association of Regulators of Information and Communication in East Africa (ARICEA) was established. ARICEA adopted a model telecommunications law, while the West Africa Telecommunication Regulators' Association (WATRA), launched in 2002, has begun to fulfill its capacity-building mandate through a series of capacity-building workshops for its membership. Leland also helped partners develop and execute information and communication strategies. In 2003, for example, Leland specialists and Tufts University worked in an innovative partnership to establish Africa's first digital archive "centers of excellence" at the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania and Makerere University in Uganda; staff are assembling, sorting and making large volumes of historic and contemporary information available in digital form. Another Leland-supported alliance used Internet-based training to establish rapid assessment processes on HIV/AIDS for use by municipal officials in South Africa and Botswana.

Another area where USAID has achieved strong results has been in setting up communications technologies. Over the past year, Leland provided U.S. technical experts to help identify reliable satellite circuitry, install the latest Internet and related technology, train national telephone company technicians to manage customer-focused, 24-hour, national Internet gateways, and provide appropriate technical support. In May of 2003, Leland engineers commissioned a satellite dish that is bringing the Internet to the Holy Rosary Academy, an all-girls high school in Kenya, and allowing its female students to become certified Cisco Networking specialists. Similarly, Leland brought the Internet to Tanzania's St. Augustine's University and the University of Iringa, laying the groundwork for a country-wide electronic education backbone. Leland has also been piloting the Digital Freedom Initiative, a public-private partnership between the U.S. technology industry and the Departments of Commerce and State, to bring the power and leverage of information technologies to small- and medium-sized enterprises in Senegal. This effort, while designed in 2003, will begin to bear fruit early in 2004 as volunteers get on the ground and begin to devise IT-based approaches to electronic funds transfer, strengthened business practices and improved access to markets.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Africa Regional

698-016 Leland Initiative: African Information Technology	CSH	DA	ESF
Through September 30, 2002			
Obligations	1,070	11,102	1,500
Expenditures	522	4,940	358
Unliquidated	548	6,162	1,142
Fiscal Year 2003			
Obligations	0	1,500	0
Expenditures	-61	2,496	-34
Through September 30, 2003			
Obligations	1,070	12,602	1,500
Expenditures	461	7,436	324
Unliquidated	609	5,166	1,176
Prior Year Unobligated Funds			
Obligations	0	0	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2004 NOA			
Obligations	0	500	0
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2004			
Obligations	0	500	0
Proposed Fiscal Year 2005 NOA			
Obligations	0	872	0
Future Obligations	0	0	0
Est. Total Cost	1,070	13,974	1,500