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## Final Report

### Part 1 - Summary Project Details

## REPORTS

Please use your TAB key to complete parts 1, 2, 4 & 5

CRDC Project Number: CSP127C

January Report:  Due 29-Jan-01  
August Report:  Due 03-Aug-01  
Final Report:  Due within 3 months of project completion  
Project Title: Replacment of ACRI computer file server (SICALA)

### Part 2 - Project Contact Details

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## **Part 3 – Final Report Format**

### **1. Outline the background to the project.**

CRDC has for many years supported the development and maintenance of computer systems at Australian Cotton Research Institute (ACRI), Narrabri. These computer systems have benefited all research programs through their use in data processing, storage, statistical analysis, modelling, provision of access to the Australian Cotton CRC's web site and the development of end-user packages. The most cost effective option for maintaining file, print and communication (eg. e-mail) services at ACRI are to replace existing file servers when their warranty terminates, with new file servers. The cost of maintaining old file servers far outweighs the cost of replacing these servers with new ones.

Presently the station has three computer servers, SICALA, TOOLMAN, and BEETLE. Each of the servers has a different purpose, they are:

SICALA – Microsoft exchange e-mail client, and client administration services. This is the primary domain server and critical to the operation of the whole computer network.

TOOLMAN - This server is primarily used for the storage and backup of information and data for all researchers located at ACRI. This server was renewed from funding obtained from the CRDC in early 1998.

BEETLE – This server is the web server and delivers the Cotton CRC's to the Internet. This is presently run on the old TOOLMAN server that was renewed in early 1998.

### **2. List the project objectives and the extent to which these have been achieved.**

*Objective* - To order and purchase a new file server and install it at ACRI.

*Achieved* - A new file SERVER (Dell AS-PII/4400) has been installed at ACRI and is fully functional.

### **3. How has your research addressed the Corporations three outputs: Sustainability of natural resources, profitability and competitiveness, and/or people and communities?**

This project assists all research and extension activities conducted at ACRI which ultimately contribute to all outputs nominated by the CDRC.

### **4. Detail the methodology and justify the methodology used.**

The ACRI computer systems manager has identified that the warranty on the existing file server (SICALA) expired on the 9 May 2000. He also identified that the cost of maintaining this server far outweighed the purchase of a new server.



In addition the increase in the use of e-mail and number of clients is necessitated a server with greater disk space and speed.

Several quotes were obtained on the replacement of a server that would provide the capacity to meet existing and future needs of ACRI. The machine purchased was a Dual Pentium Pro computer similar to the existing file server 'TOOLMAN' and was installed in the computer room at ACRI. The replacement machine was much quicker and stored more data than the present server SICALA. In addition the server will allow much more staff at ACRI to utilise the capabilities of the new computer-wiring network installed at ACRI. Backup and capabilities of E-mail capabilities have been greatly enhanced because of this machine.

**5. Detail results including the statistical analysis of results.**

Not Applicable

**6. Discuss the results, and include an analysis of research outcomes compared with objectives.**

Not Applicable

**7. Provide an assessment of the likely impact of the results and conclusions of the research project for the cotton industry. Where possible include a statement of the costs and potential benefits to the Australian cotton industry and future research needs.**

As mentioned previously the purchase of this computer server assists all research and extension activities conducted at ACRI which ultimately contribute to all outputs nominated by the CDRC.

**8. Describe the project technology (eg. commercially significant developments, patents applied for or granted licenses etc).**

Not Applicable

**9. Provide a technical summary of any other information developed as part of the research project. Include discoveries in methodology, equipment design, etc.**

Not Applicable

**10. State the recommendations on the activities or other steps that may be taken to further develop, disseminate, or to exploit the project technology.**

Through the maintenance of quality computing services at ACRI that CRDC helps supports, enables the research effort at ACRI remain at high level.

**11. List the publications arising from the research project.**

Not Applicable



## **Part 4 – Final Report Plain English Summary**

You must submit a half to one page Plain English Summary of your research proposal that is not commercial in confidence, and that can be published on the World Wide Web. An electronic copy of the Plain English Summary must also be forwarded by e-mail ([angela@crdc.org.au](mailto:angela@crdc.org.au)).

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