



Audit of the key ICT project "Implementation of the Confederation's new network architecture"

Federal Office of Information Technology, Systems and Telecommunication

Key facts

The Federal Office of Information Technology, Systems and Telecommunication (FOITT) is strengthening the external procurement of data communication services with the programme "Implementation of the Confederation's new network architecture" (german UNB) and is implementing measures from the Confederation's ICT strategy. At the same time, it is replacing its network components as part of life cycle management. The programme was initiated in 2014 and combined various projects already being carried out. Programme completion is planned for 2019.

Of the guarantee credit of approximately CHF 138 million, CHF 32 million have been allocated to project implementation and CHF 94 million to operating expenses. CHF 12 million are no longer earmarked. The planned procurement volume, including several options, amounts to CHF [REDACTED] million for the period up to 2026.

The FOITT has managed to combine various ongoing projects in the network area in the UNB programme at the operational level. Its approach will ensure the technical and operational risks are kept as low as possible. The implementation of the FOITT's established business processes and the use of well-known technologies contribute significantly to this. The steering and management of the programme are essentially targeted. In order to have tighter management of the projects at the senior level, the FOITT should fine-tune the management tools in the programme (e.g. programme planning). It should also improve the consistency of solution documentation (e.g. ICT architecture and security).

Central deliverables not given enough consideration in programme planning

The projects produce their earned value analyses not based on suitable work breakdown structures, they are rather assessed as an overall measure. In this way, the UNB programme cannot comprehensively show how the deliverables in and between the projects are interdependent in terms of content and time. Critical deliverables are, for instance, the procurement procedures or studies for new technologies.

The FOITT should review the financial planning in the UNB programme. The lack of overview means that the programme planning and reporting do not have the necessary transparency and reliability. There is also greater probability that the risk management does not cover essential topics.

Legal uncertainty results in procurement delays

Appeals were lodged by tenderers in two procurement procedures. These appeals contributed considerably to the delays in the affected projects, while other delays cannot be ruled out. Questions regarding the FOITT's formal procurement skills are unresolved. The FOITT must create legal certainty in this matter together with the Federal Office for Buildings and Logistics.

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