Exciting new Software Platform coming

For the past three years the ABRI’s Christopher de Crespigny has led a team of up to four software specialists who have been developing a new software system for breed society recording that is integrated with BREEDPLAN. Called the International Livestock Register 2 (or ILR2) this software is expected to dominate the global market for livestock recording systems over the next decade.

The project, costing around $1.5M, has been made possible by seeding capital provided by the Federal Government through the International Livestock Resources and Information Centre. ABRI’s current software for breed societies, called ILR1, is a market leader which is being used in twelve of the world’s major livestock countries. However, software technology is advancing rapidly and ABRI has used the latest tools to develop ILR2.

The software is designed to optimise the efficiency of record handling through extensive use of internet. This will see breed societies move towards paperless offices. ILR2 has comprehensive on-line recall of all input and output to achieve higher productivity in breed offices. ABRI is confident about the thrust for an Internet-enabled system because its current Internet service to breed societies receives over 1.3million page enquires per month with annual growth of 40%.

Using ILR2, ABRI will be able to extend its service to breed societies worldwide without those societies needing to invest in expensive hardware. All that will be required will be a PC, laser printer and a fast connection to an internet service provider. Larger breed societies in overseas countries may still prefer to do processing in-house and this can be achieved using industry-standard servers.

ILR2 will be interfaced with an enhanced computational engine for BREEDPLAN which is being developed by the Animal Genetics & Breeding Unit (AGBU). This engine offers faster solution time for GROUP BREEDPLAN so that it will become economically feasible to do these vital runs more frequently.

The product is also designed for the inevitable rationalisation of breed societies. This rationalisation will see a number of societies using one administrative team.

An operator will be able to have the screens on a number of societies open at one time - facilitating multi-tasking.

The screens will also be available in a number of languages. ILR2 will be compatible with the current generation of radio frequency identification devices (RFID) as well as the new read/write tags being developed by Infineon Technologies (p.17). Thus ILR2 can easily be extended to running databases for supply management systems or national traceability schemes. ILR2 will allow ABRI and other agencies appropriately licensed by ABRI to provide services to a number of breeds of a range of species across a number of countries and in a variety of languages - using a parameter driven implementation of the software.

Not surprisingly, ILR2 is the largest software project ever undertaken by ABRI. Its rollout to existing and new customers will start in 2006 and will extend through a period of over five years - such is the size of ABRI’s existing user base.

ABRI’s clients can look forward to participating in the new software platform that is likely to have a 15 year productive life. Their respective costs of entry will be a fraction of the development cost.

Arthur Rickards
Managing Director, ABRI

Christopher de Crespigny, responsible for the new software system development.