

Appendix E – 2010/11 IS/IT Strategy projects portfolio – To Be Done (TBD)

Proj Ref	Project Title	Overview	Key Objectives	Expected Benefits	SRO	Dept	Size
10/01	Upgrade of RCU Sample Tracker Database	The Sample Tracker Database is an integral part of RCU's work for the FSA and is effectively a partial LIMS system. Currently the database only runs under Access 97 which is no longer supported by Microsoft. To ensure continuity of this essential resource it needs to be upgraded so that it will function with newer versions of Access.	To enable RCU's Sample Tracker Database to work with recent versions of Access	Ensuring business continuity for a vital part of RCU's analytical system. Replacement of a system that is no longer supported and is starting to fail. If the system failed RCU would no longer be able to provide part of a contracted service to FSA.	Peter Hodson/ Tony Dell	RCU	Medium
10/03	Herdsure Enhancements to Handle Neospora	The new Neospora protocol requires two main enhancements to the Herdsure Management system Firstly the system needs to keep records of which females are known to be in the breeding herd. This is so that data on CTS for female fatteners does not interfere with status reporting for the breeders. At present HMS does not keep permanent records of individual cattle so this is a change Secondly there needs to be a facility to produce periodic reports that show each breeding cow's progress towards Neospora-free status – i.e. reporting on progress of the testing cycle (see detail below). These reports will enable vets and farmers to keep track of the testing that needs to be done	To introduce a cattle table where animals can be flagged as being within the breeding herd. To set up a regular reporting process that sends out status reports for each farm participating in the Neospora protocol	If a good automated tracking system can be provided then VLA will have the only viable Neospora control programme in Great Britain, and given the importance of the disease this will raise Herdsure's profile across the livestock industry.	Paul Townsend	LSD	Medium

10/06	TB Diagnostic Culture work on SampleManager LIMS	Implementation of TB diagnostic culture work, (currently a .Net/SQL Server system developed in 2003), on SampleManager LIMS. The current system is in use at Weybridge, Carmarthen, Bury, Starcross, Sutton Bonington and Truro.	Implement functionality for TB culture diagnostic work on SampleManager replacing the existing system. Import and export of data from/to AH. Importation of data from VLA Lasswade. Capability for Animal Health to view test results and reports etc via a web page	The work will be transferred to SampleManager the VLA corporate LIMS. The corporate LIMS provides the majority of system functionality used by Weybridge and the RLs. TB data will be integrated with current LIMS data and available for epidemiological scrutiny. Further consolidation of VLA diagnostic testing onto one LIMS. Reduction in numbers of ad hoc databases, currently there are 3 in use.	Jacky Brewer	LSD	Large
10/08	Cluster computing	Support CERA in their investigations in to use of Grid/Cluster computing to run models	Implement a working cluster solution providing significant processing power for data modelling	Provides infrastructure for a range of scientific/research proposals	Jane Archer	ITU	Medium
10/09	SOGE IT sustainability project for 2010/2011	Implement the key SOGE recommendations and provide required feedback to Defra and Cabinet Office. Savings are identified as part of the OEP	Meeting immediate UK Gov SOGE objectives. Capture appropriate sustainability data and progress to feedback to the centre. Deliver the printer rationalisation savings identified by OEP.	£119k per annum printer savings. Reduction in VLA carbon footprint and energy cost savings.	Terry Stacy	ITU	Medium
10/10	RL LIMS Rollout	Rollout of full LIMS to Regional laboratories including Sample Tracking and Dispatch notes.	Implement a range of tests on SampleManager including parasitology and a commercial tests	Improved reporting to commercial customers and a further step towards VLA's LIMS Vision to fully automate RL testing on SampleManager	Rob Ready	Corporate	Large
10/11	MTS upgrade to provide searchable price lists	Implement replication of the MTS data so interactive search screens can be incorporated on VLA external website	Implement interactive web pages for VLA' testing services	Improved presentation of VLA's core testing services to customers via the web.	Nicola Boyd	LSD	Medium
10/12	Resource and programme reporting on intraVet	Minor redesign and rationalisation of current Business Objects reports. Creation of hyperlinks between existing Monthly Project Reports and the redesigned reports. Extension of the automated emailing process to include resource and programme reports (note the main development work was undertaken previously, this proposal is only requesting widening the distribution process).	To consolidate existing staff time & test reports into project-specific reports accessed via hyperlinks from Monthly Proj Rep.	Improved accessibility. Currently it takes 11 clicks to navigate through intraVet to access the resource, programme and staff time/test reports. The emailing of specific links will remove this undertaking.	Steve Martin	CAPS	Medium

10/13	Vetqas proficiency testing staining scheme	<p>The VLA QAU wish to take over the running of two veterinary proficiency testing schemes currently marketed by UKNEQAS (United Kingdom National External Quality Assessment Service). UKNEQAS run a range of proficiency schemes available to the clinical and pharmaceutical sectors and focus on the quality assessment of laboratory medicine. VLA QAU, on the other hand, manages about 80 veterinary proficiency assessment schemes using bespoke .NET software built and supported by SFW.</p> <p>It is thought that the two veterinary schemes currently marketed by UKNEQAS should be administered by VLA QAU as they are concerned with veterinary testing; not human medical testing. This project will enhance the existing QAU Vetqas system to administer the additional two veterinary schemes.</p>	<p>To extend the Sfw developed and supported Vetqas Proficiency Testing system to handle the additional two schemes.</p>	<p>Enhancement of the Vetqas system was recommended by a feasibility study carried out in April 2010 as the best way to enable the Quality Assurance Unit (QAU) to administer the schemes starting April 2011. Funding would be via VLA commercial budgets. Approximate Sfw costs are £65k.</p>	Andrew Soldan	Corporate	Medium
10/15	QA Stocks database adaption for SSU	<p>A new database for SSU using a version of TSE QASTOCKS database with customisation.</p>	<p>Adapt the existing MS Access Stocks and Sales database for SSU use.</p> <p>Install in SSU so that freezer and cold store contents can be monitored/logged.</p> <p>Train staff.</p> <p>Set up support contract</p>	<p>SSU holds many (100s) of items (viruses, bacteria, parasites and cell cultures) that we use for commercial work. There range from test control organisms to challenge strains and valuable parasites (e.g. those from the 1960s that were collected before resistant strains emerged).</p> <p>In addition, we receive many samples for testing. Many have to be carefully stored at set temperatures from receipt until the contract is reported, sometimes for longer.</p>	Nick Reed	SSU	Small

10/05	SampleManager LIMS application and database software upgrade	<p>The integrated project consists of three phases of which Phase 1 is nearing completion.</p> <p>Phase 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Resolution of heap memory technical issue so that all 141 user licenses can be utilized. b) Determination of technical strategy over time. c) Procurement and build of new hardware running Windows 2008 64 bit operating system and Oracle 11g software. <p>Phase 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Installation of SM10 (possibly a beta version for testing for Thermo). b) Design and development of test server environments (database and application) for use with XP client build. c) System testing of newly developed environment with Oracle and SM10 on separate servers. d) Development of live and ITU development and test environments. e) Review storage options f) Migration to new environments. <p>Phase 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Decommissioning of old equipment. b) Review potential use of SM web client and IIS expansion. c) Review options for database and potential effort and cost/benefit to migrate from Oracle to SQL Server as part of future-proofing plans. 	Provision of a LIMS system that has fast performance with high data volumes and low bandwidth on an Intel based hardware platform with storage capacity for LIMS live, test, and development environments.	<p>If this proposal is not progressed there is the risk of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Loss of current work and limitations on the expansion of the system to meet needs in a competitive environment. b) Limitations on web-based, distributed systems, and lack of potential for entry into new markets. c) Limitations on system-based functionality to adhere to ISO17025 standard. 	Di Flowers	ITU	Large
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10/07	Upgrade of the Library Management System (Liberty 3 to Liberty 4)	The testing and data conversion will be done by the Library Team together with Softlink (software supplier). Library will need some advice and assistance when the upgrade takes place and possibly in advance. May require access to the server when installation takes place.	The move to Liberty4 will provide the VLA-staff and other customers with a user-friendly and up-to-date Library and resource catalogue.	<p>The VLA and connected institutions will have access to an up-to-date Library management system, which will allow the library team to work more efficiently. Liberty3 is based on a Concordance database. The underlying software for Liberty4 has been changed to SQL, which means upgrades in the future will be straightforward and reporting features won't have to be rewritten each time.</p> <p>Also, there is a chance that Defra and Fera will use our installation for their library system, which will create opportunities for cross working. It's not possible to test this until the move to Liberty4 is complete.</p> <p>As Softlink is slowly moving all their customers over to Liberty4, we run the risk of having an unsupported Library Management System if we decide not to upgrade. This would be a threat to the continuation of the Library Services.</p>	Heather Hulse	Library	Small
10/14	Vetqas proficiency testing reading scheme	This project enhances the existing SfW developed Vetqas proficiency testing system to handle the new scheme. A Scoping and Feasibility Study was commissioned by the VLA Quality Assurance Unit (QAU) to recommend options and estimate the cost of implementing an IT solution to manage a new proficiency scheme. The scheme gives an indicative measure of the quality of diagnoses submitted by pathologists of histopath slides presented as digital images.	To extend the SfW developed and supported Vetqas Proficiency Testing system to handle the additional slide reading scheme.	Enhancement of the Vetqas system was recommended by a feasibility study carried out in May 2010 as the best way to enable the Quality Assurance Unit (QAU) to administer a new Reading scheme. Funding would be via VLA commercial budgets.	Andrew Soldan	Corporate	Medium

10/16	Academic Board Registry	An excel workbook register was set up when the Academic Board was first appointed in the early 1990s. Since that time information has been added but it now needs a full overhaul as it no longer not flexible enough for current needs. The PhD Programme, introduced in 2009, means that we now have to adapt the register further to accommodate the extra information that we should be holding as this will be needed for statistics, reports to VLA Directorate as well as for external requests.	Database to include the information that the Academic Board require on postgraduate training covering: Supervisory training University tracking Destinations of students after studies Projects Stipends and other payments Funding Publications	Benefits – The ability to interrogate the information more effectively/efficiently to provide data annually and on request to both internal and external bodies, for example information of quinquennial reviews, science audits. Better monitoring of the VLA PhD Studentship programme to evaluate effectiveness, monitoring the amount of external involvement by VLA staff on formal learning courses such as MSc. Helps identify gaps in knowledge and leads to better knowledge management. Implications – Ongoing development of recommendations from the 2007 Science Audit are affected as evaluation of PhD Programme would be more difficult. Fail to raise the profile and standing of the VLA in academia and with other institutes.	Morag Mitchell	HR	Small
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10/02	Herdsure Enhancements - Ear tag listings	<p>Enhancements are required so that eartag lists can be more sophisticated in their content & filtering:</p> <p>1. Being able to identify new animals that have arrived on farm since a certain date (purchases or new born calves). An example is the 12 months of negative calves that need to be tested to get into BVD level 3. The Practitioner is quite likely to be unaware of new calves joining the herd, and it would be very beneficial if HMS can alert him when the animals are registered on CTS</p> <p>2. In the Johnes protocol a bought in animal has to be tested annually for 4 years before it can be treated as part of the routine sampling. A similar situation exists for Lepto and IBR, with consequences if these tests are missed. Will the PVS remember to do these tests? It would be ideal if the HMS system could produce a list of the right eartags on the right days (i.e. on the anniversary of their arriving on farm, or at the time of environmental sampling at level 3)</p>	<p>To enhance the system so that eartag lists can be based on identifying and including new animals and include animals based on the length of time they have been in the herd i.e. those that have joined the herd since a specific date.</p>	<p>The more that Herdsure can help the Customer, the more likely VLA is to become a leader in the Health Planning market. If practitioners fail to test the right animals at the right time then the farm risks losing it's status, and having to carry out expensive remedial testing to re-establish their position.</p>	Paul Townsend	LSD	Small
10/04	Herdsure Enhancements for Viewing Protocols	<p>The Herdsure Management system makes extensive use of rules tables to drive the sampling and testing required by each protocol. For each protocol step (there are 90 in total) there is a detailed specification of the samples needed, tests to be done, sampling instructions to be sent to the customer, what eartags need to be included, standard text to explain positive and negative results, what happens as a consequence of different results – etc. Currently the HMS provides no way for users to view these specifications, or amend them. Although some fields need to remain under ITU control because of LIMS integration and system management, others should be in the control of the Herdsure Admin Team</p>	<p>To enhance the system so users can see all the components of the step specifications including samples, tests, eartag requirements, sampling instructions - everything that defines how the step works and the consequences for the protocol and the farm</p>	<p>It is very difficult to understand the protocols properly if there is no access to the rules that make them work</p>	Bob Monies	LSD	Small