

Audit of the key ICT project Telecommunications Surveillance Federal Department of Justice and Police

Key facts

In the second quarter of 2016, the Swiss Federal Audit Office (SFAO) audited for the first time the key ICT project Telecommunications Surveillance (TS) of the Federal Department of Justice and Police (FDJP). TS is a follow-up programme to the key project ISS 2 (Interception System Switzerland 2) already audited in 2014.¹ The TS programme is for the development and operation of the processing system for the telecommunications surveillance of the Post and Telecommunications Surveillance Service (PTSS) and of the police information systems of the Federal Office of Police (fedpol). By the end of 2021, a total of CHF 111.7 million should be spent on the project. The adaptations to the fedpol systems have a budget of CHF 29 million and the remaining amount is earmarked for the post and telecommunications surveillance systems.

The systems will be adapted to the technical developments of recent years and the requirements of future technologies. In addition, the commencement of the fully revised federal act on post and telecommunications surveillance and the resultant amendments to the Swiss Criminal Procedure Code will see new tasks assigned to the PTSS and fedpol that must be implemented using the relevant IT systems.

The programme was started on 1 January 2016, and the first implementation projects are in the initiation phase or at the start of the planning phase. The remaining work from the completed key project ISS 2 will be charged separately to its transferred share of the guarantee credit. Based on the controlling, the programme is on track in terms of financing and time. Up to 30 June 2016, CHF 780,000 were credited to external costs and CHF 1 million to internal expenses.

A well-steered and managed programme with potential for inter-office synergies

According to the FDF, the key roles in the programme are filled optimally and the steering and management tasks are performed competently.

With regard to the fedpol systems, a new architectural approach should be pursued which is not limited to adaptations to systems that have reached the end of their life cycle. It will be based on a new, collective platform of fedpol systems with the integration of the Office of the Attorney General (OAG), through which it should be possible to save costs. The SFAO welcomes this forward-looking approach.

Public prosecutor and cantonal police still need to come on board

From the SFAO's viewpoint, the necessary attention is given to stakeholder management. It is proving difficult, however, to motivate the office of the public prosecutor and cantonal police to cooperate in the programme. While this has not been a problem up to now, it is important in the planning

¹ "Audit of the key ICT project Interception System Switzerland 2" (audit mandate 14393), available on the SFAO website (www.sfao.admin.ch).



phase that representatives of these stakeholders work on solving their requirements. The programme leadership and committee members are currently pushing ahead with their recruitment process.

Staggered release of guarantee credit can be optimised

A guarantee credit of CHF 99 million was approved for the overall programme and will be released in phases. The first-ever staggered release of the guarantee credit for a key ICT project proved to be very laborious. As a result, it is worthwhile for the SFAO to revise the release process based on experiences with the TS project for future programmes and major projects.

The SFAO has made a recommendation for this purpose to the Federal Department of Finance.

Problematic conflict of roles in quality and risk management

From the SFAO's viewpoint, quality assurance and risk management are ensured. The roles are operational and the reporting is defined.

The quality and risk management at the steering level is performed externally and is operational. Nevertheless, the SFAO considers it problematic that this very company assumed a supporting role in a project assessment performed by FITSU in the programme. Such a situation must be avoided in the future.

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