



Name of Publication: AME Info  
Date of Publication: 7/1/2004  
Page(s) in Publication: Online Article



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Monday, 5 January, 2004

## Egypt's Ministry deploys document management system

by Maddy Reddy



Astec the German IT solutions vendor announced today that it has provided Egypt's Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation (MWRI) with a new Arabised Library Management System (LMS) for managing documents and sharing information.

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This project comes as part of MWRI's ongoing modernisation plan, initiated and directed by HE Dr. Mahmoud Abu Zied, minister, MWRI. The new LMS allows for better management of information resources facilitating access to material from libraries, archives and databases. The fully Arabised system saves information in virtually all existing formats, including RTF, PDF, HTML, XML, JPEG, TIFF, WAV and MPEG.

"Our solutions were developed in partnership with the largest European companies under the authorisation of the German Authority for Data Security, which serves government departments, ministries and the army," explains Anas Chbib, AGT's managing director. The document management solution was deployed by Astec's local partner Advanced German Technology (AGT).

"Just as the Nile is central to the geography of Egypt so the management of the country's water supply, and the flow of information about it, is vital to the life of the nation," says Mr Klaus-Dieter Kees, managing director of Astec.

The cross platform LMS provides MWRI with a fully integrated library management system with multimedia database and open interfaces, which lets users share and search for information in libraries, archives and databases and integrated with the Ministry's intranet.

"All enterprises and government organisations can greatly benefit from the library management system technology, like the German government which is a big customer of ours," adds Kees.

With the aid of unified access to a large variety of heterogeneous information resources, remote users, such as MWRI operatives working in-the-field, can access MWRI's databases online through the intranet or the internet, as well as create and maintain their own databases, via their notebooks.

The Ministry believes the information made available by the new LMS would be vital for the monitoring water usage in the Nile Basin countries and ensure that maximum value is obtained from this precious natural resource. The MWRI is one of the oldest ministries

