

Paris, 3 July 2002

The Steria - Institut de France Foundation uses IT to help children in a Paris neighbourhood, and reports on its first partnership with the "Votre Ecole Chez Vous" Association

The Steria – Institut de France Foundation's Board of Directors has approved the launch of a new project with the *Association Sportive et Culturelle Vigée Lebrun* (ASCVL).

The Foundation was created to enable the Steria Group to share its knowledge in information technologies, to help people in need. It also allows Steria employees and employee shareholders to work together on projects that benefit the community.

Putting IT at the service of a socially deprived area with ASCVL

The *Association Sportive et Culturelle Vigée Lebrun* (Vigée Lebrun Sports and Culture Association) was set up in 1980 and is managed by parents of school children, on a voluntary basis. It groups two primary schools with a total of 520 children from various social and ethnic backgrounds, located in a socially mixed area east of Paris' 15th *arrondissement*. Its goal is to bring children, parents and teachers together, and improve their quality of life through information technology.

A few months ago, ASCVL provided an IT classroom with 25 networked computers, generously enhancing the existing machines used during school hours and for extracurricular activities.

During school hours, the room is used for children's IT activities at all levels and for teachers involved in the preparation of B2I (Brevet Informatique Internet), an IT/Internet diploma. Extracurricular activities include IT workshops co-ordinated by ASCVL directly. Conducted by a young person on a work experience contract, these two types of workshops have proven to be even more popular than the Association's standard workshops.

According to Jean-Michel Albouy, chairman of ASCVL, "All families should have access to computers, to allow equal opportunities for everyone. This technology helps to create social bonds, extremely effective in dealing with insecurity and inactivity. It also facilitates the work of the association on local area projects. In our increasingly "global" world, local action must be promoted."

The Steria - Institut de France Foundation works with ASCVL on three levels, to help it expand its scope of action:

- co-financing of the trainer's salary for at least one year;
- providing of hardware: servers, computers, Linux operating systems, connection equipment, etc.;
- training of teachers and adults by voluntary Steria employees, hardware installation and skills transfer, occasional joint teaching of children, and involvement in training the work experience trainer.

The project sponsor, Anne Dumoucel, insurance project manager at Steria says, "I was immediately drawn to this commitment because it is primarily aimed at children and their families in difficulty, and is based on establishing a close relationship between the learning and working world. As a Steria sponsor, my role will be to provide the support that ASCVL needs in the form of actions facilitating access to new technology. This solidarity will be the source of even greater experience all round!

The *Votre Ecole Chez Vous* project: progress in line with forecasts

Votre Ecole Chez Vous (Your School at Home), a French association (1901 association law), has this year ensured the home schooling of 163 children suffering from an illness or a handicap. The Foundation provides support to VECV in the following areas:

- the development of projects improving children's lifestyle and learning. The "e-recess" project is now under way. The goal is to provide an e-space where the children can play and interact with others to make them feel less isolated. Two volunteers are in charge of testing educational game portals providing non-violent games, which will encourage children to discover new horizons through the Internet, interact with others, and participate in forums. These volunteers then make their proposals to the association. An increasing number of children will be using e-recess in the coming weeks;

- provision and installation of computers. About twenty computers have already been or soon will be delivered;
- advice on educational infrastructures and tools that the Association uses. A study was conducted by a voluntary consultant from Steria on the Association's management system needs in terms of generating student files, teacher and student timetables, activity follow-up and archives. Project volunteers will start designing IT tools at the beginning of the summer.

About ten Steria volunteers, co-ordinated by a sponsor, will be involved in the project.

About Steria (www.steria.com):

Steria is one of the ten leading IT services companies in Europe following the acquisition of the majority of Bull's European services business. Steria boasts 9000 employees and forecasts 2002 revenues of over €1bn, 60% of which will come from outside of France. Its presence spans 12 countries worldwide. The Group is therefore confirming the sound nature of its strategic positioning as an IT services global operator in three core businesses: consulting, systems integration and managed services. Backed by 33 years of experience in the banking and insurance, utilities, public service and telecommunications sectors, Steria is a pool of business, process and technological skills enabling it to partner its customers throughout their successes and their development. Steria is a pioneer in employee shareholding with more than 34% of its capital in the hands of its French employees. Steria is listed on the Premier Marché of the Paris Stock Exchange and in the SBF120 index. Moreover, Steria has joined forces with the London Metropolitan Police to launch the Karrot project. The goal of this initiative is to provide young people in a deprived area with access to a range of sports, musical or artistic activities as a reward for good behaviour, good citizenship and school attendance.

About the Institut de France (www.institut-de-france.fr):

Created on 25 October 1795, the Institut de France is supervised by Chancellor Pierre Messmer, a former French Prime Minister.

It is made up of the five historical French Academies covering language, literature, sciences, arts and political and moral sciences.

As the parliament of the learned world, the Institut de France is responsible for:

- *advancing the cause of the arts and sciences through a plural-disciplinary vision,*
- *managing the thousand or so endowments, bequests and foundations in its charge, and which provide it with the means of pursuing the first of its responsibilities.*

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