Update by Ethiopic GP

Dessalegn Mequanint,

GP Chair

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Agenda

- ◉ Introduction to Ethiopic Script
- ◉ Overview of GP Members
- ◉ Challenges
- ◉ The Journey- developing LGR proposal for Ethiopic Script
- ◉ Conclusion

Introduction to Ethiopic Script

1 — **1600+ old "Syllabary"**

2 — **Used for the National Languages of Ethiopia and Eritrea**

3 — **Languages or Writing Systems Using the Language:**
Several languages use the script in their writing systems. However, only eight are considered for the LGR proposal :
- Amharic, Argobba, Awngi, Harari, Hamt'agna(Xamt'agna), Silt'e, Tigrè, Tigrigna

4 — **Users Community**
Eritrea, Djibouti, Egypt, South African, South Sudan, Kenya, United States, Canada, Israel, Europe, Australia

5 — **Each Letter of the "Syllabary" has both a consonant and a vowel :**
- ❖ ከ = ke
- ❖ ኩ = ku
- ❖ ኪ = ki
- ❖ ካ = ka
- ❖ ⋮ ⋮ ⋮

6 — **Code Point Redundancy or Phonemic Decay**
- ❑ **Code Points Redundancy- There are about 98 code points with sound and meaning alike in the Amharic language writing system.**
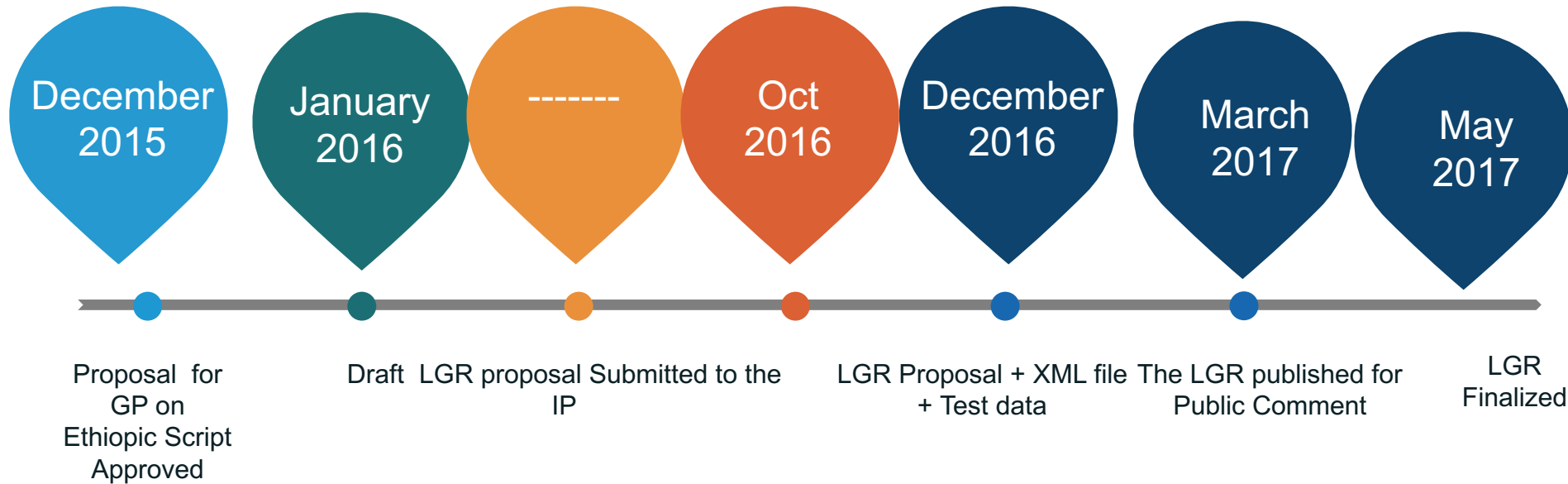 - ✓ ሐልዮ - Song
  - ✓ ኀልዮ - Theory

Overview of GP Members

❖ **GP Members :**

❑ **Dessalegn Mequanint Yehuala (Chair), Lecturer and Researcher in Computer Science**

❑ **Mulugeta Seyoum (Secretary), Assistant Professor in Linguistic**

❑ **Gezahegn Tadesse - Director IT Projects, Awash International Bank**

❑ **Balcha Reba - Director Standards at MCIT**

❑ **Assefa Kore – IT expert at Ethio-telecom**

❑ **Kinfe Micheal Yilma Desta- Phd student in Law**

❑ **Tigabu Dagne Akal - Lecturer at AIT in Computer Engineering**

❑ **Halefom Hailu Abraha, Expert in Cyber law, INSA**

❑ **Teshome Yehualashet, Assistant Professor in Linguistic**

❑ **Kassahun Lemlemu, Journalist at M.K**

❑ **Destaye Alemayehu, M.Sc student in Computer Science**

Challenges

❖ **Languages are under-resourced-:**
- ○ **Getting pertinent information both in paper and digital forms for the six languages has been challenging**
  - • **We carried out corpus analysis only for two of the languages**

❖ **Complexity in treating variants**
- ○ **Amharic language is the official working language of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.**
- ○ **It is also the official or working language of several of the states within the federal system**
- ○ **Security versus impacts of variants in the remaining seven languages**
- ○ **Striking the balance between security versus impacts of variants**

❖ **Deviation from the original timeline-**
- ○ **We have made submission to the IP 5 times - 5 levels of iteration.**

The Journey for Developing Ethiopic Script LGR Proposal

December 2015	January 2016	-------	Oct 2016	December 2016	March 2017	May 2017

Proposal for GP on Ethiopic Script Approved

Draft LGR proposal Submitted to the IP

LGR Proposal + XML file + Test data

The LGR published for Public Comment

LGR Finalized

To Summarize

Proposal for the Ethiopic Script LGR for the Root Zone has been submitted 5 times- the last two submissions were complete in the sense that unlike in the first two submissions the GP submitted the XML file and Test data along with the LGR proposal- a total of five submissions and five level of iterations(received five feedbacks from the IP).

The LGR proposal for Ethiopic Script published for public comment in March and finalized by incorporating public comments very recently.

Conclusion

- Ethiopia is in the bottom pack of countries when it comes to Internet use or diffusion.
- Ethiopic script now belongs to the leading pack in the IDN space.