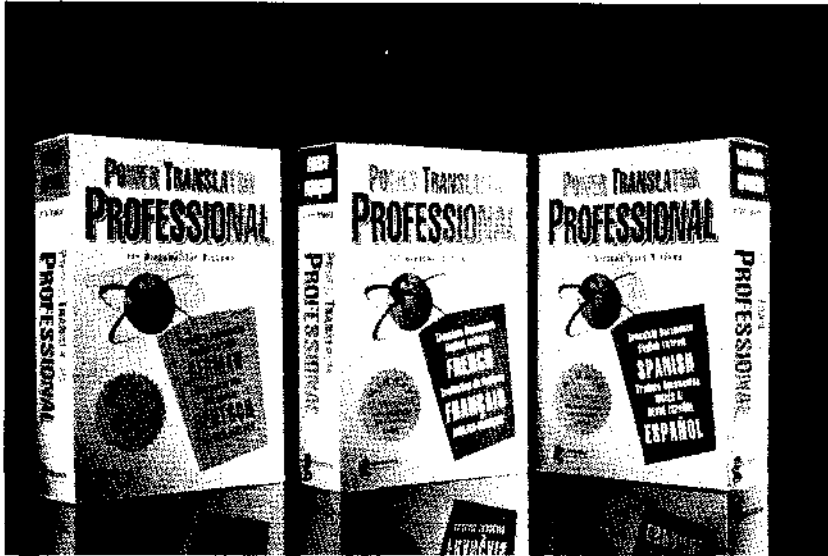


# Globalink developments

One of the fastest moving companies in the language technology area these days is the Virginia (USA)-based company Globalink. Building on the commercial success of the various versions of its machine translation package, which it has been developing for some years, it is now expanding into the fields of on-line translation and CD-ROM products.



The acquisition by Globalink of MicroTac software, previously reported in *Language International*, has now been formally endorsed by Globalink's shareholders.

The acquisition, which made Globalink the world's largest provider of foreign language translation software, was approved at a special shareholders' meeting. The meeting approved the exchange of 880,000 shares of Globalink common stock for all the capital stock of MicroTac Software. At the same time an increase in authorised shares, from 5,000,000 to 20,000,000, was approved.

## On-line service

In the on-line market, Globalink is developing *Translation-Express*, which they claim will be a revolutionary on-line translation service, to provide fast and accurate translations of electronic documents, such as business correspondence, short reports, studies, papers and e-mail messages, to customers via proprietary software and also via Globalink's own World Wide Web home page system, which is now being constructed. Initial languages will include French, German, Spanish and Italian.

## Minitel access

An on-line service in France will make use of the French Minitel service, which has more than six million users.

Globalink has announced that it has signed an agreement to license its language translation software technology to the French companies Meta International and MEM Télécom et Réseaux.

Under these agreements, which have a combined estimated value of \$820,000, each company will license the Globalink translation engine for integration with their French user interface to Minitel. This allows non-French-speaking users on-line access to Minitel's databases and services. Initially this extra interface will be available in English, with the possibility of adding more languages as the need arises.

Meta International, a French telecommunications systems integrator, provides PC users Minitel emulation plus on-line translation in English to and from French when making a system inquiry.

MEM Télécom et Réseaux, a French research and development company in telecommunications, is a UNIX systems integrator. MEM will be providing a solution on-line, with a UNIX server, for automatic translations with specialised dictionaries for French industry as well as access to UNIX users on Minitel.

## Windows version

Globalink have also released a major new version of its translation software, *Power Translator Professional for Windows*, for translation between the language pairs English/Spanish, English/French and English/German.

New features include direct import or export of documents from major word processing programs, with full text formatting preserved from language to language, centralised dictionary databases for multiple users on a network to ensure consistent use of terminology organisation-wide, point-and-click dictionary updates which allow users to quickly and easily customise their dictionaries, and a facility for translation in background which allows faster processing of large documents.

Also included in this new version is an on-line Grammar Module which serves as a reference source to help users look up alternative translations, gender, verb conjugations etc., plus voice output of the translated document in English or the foreign language, together with bilingual menus, documentation and on-line help. Network support is provided for Novell, Banyan and other local area network (LAN) technology.

The product carries a suggested retail price (for the United States) of \$595.

### **CD-ROM product**

Their CD-ROM product, due for release in the spring of 1995, is called *Power Translator Deluxe CD-ROM for Windows*. Introducing the product Michael E. Tacelosky, president of Globalink, said "A CD-ROM's storage capabilities and easy installation make *Power Translator Deluxe* an obvious choice for people who want an easy, uncomplicated way to communicate in more than one language. This is one way Globalink continues to respond to market demands for affordable, powerful translation software.

The product, which has voice output capability, allows users to control pitch, volume and speed. This is a unique feature in the CD-ROM version and provides advantages for rapid language learning and speech comprehension. *Power Translator Deluxe* will be available in the language pairs English/Spanish, English/French and English/German.

Users can import and export files, with formatting intact, from most major word processing systems including Windows-based WordPerfect, Microsoft Word, Lotus Ami Pro as well as RTF or ASCII/ANSI formats. Dictionary modifications can be made quickly. *Power Translator Deluxe* shares the same algorithms as Globalink's other software products, achieving translation quality by reviewing each word in the context of its sentence.

### **Global education**

Globalink is contributing its foreign language translation software to an unusual educational project called *Family Tree-mail*. In this project, in which Globalink has teamed up with an educational organisation operating on the Internet, Global Schoolhouse, school pupils are encouraged to exchange family histories with children in other countries.

"It's all about communication, really", says Tacelosky. "It's a way for kids to talk to one another without having to speak a word of each other's language. If a group of kids from one country can understand what makes a group of kids from another country think and act the way they do, there's a real chance for future growth, prosperity and understanding between all the citizens of the world. The Global Schoolhouse and Globalink are combining to make international electronic pen-pals a reality".

*Yvonne Andres*, director of the Global Schoolhouse project, which is an offshoot of the US National Science Foundation's Global SchoolNet Foundation, comments, "Today the global environment allows the exchange of information worldwide. The *Family Tree-mail* project even crosses the language barrier."

Initially *Family Tree-mail* involves students from 16 countries located in English-, French-, Spanish-,

Italian- and German-speaking countries. They have been assigned to interview family members and collect and write up their histories. Each class writes up their collection in newsletter format in their native languages which will be published on the Internet for all to share. Globalink language translation software is being used to translate the finished products as they are received by the participating schools.

A maximum of eight small clusters of schools from selected classes in each of the non-English-speaking countries have been matched with eight small clusters of schools from selected classes in the United States. Each cluster is operating in two languages, one of which will be English. A cluster is made up of four schools, two from the USA and two from other countries.

As students complete *Family Tree-mail* activities, they e-mail the information to their project cluster partners over the Internet. As each foreign language e-mail contribution is received, Globalink's software translates the message. The project's completion will result in each cluster publishing a group anthology or newsletter in their native language and sharing it, on the Internet, with their counterparts in the project.