



## VIRTUAL ARBITRATION MEETING CENTER – TECHNIQUES FOR CONTROLLING TIME AND COSTS

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The [International Chamber of Commerce](#) (ICC) Commission on Arbitration came out with an excellent report titled, "[Techniques for Controlling Time and Costs in Arbitration](#)." The ICC Commission set up a Task Force on Reducing Time and Costs in Arbitration. The report details methods for selecting counsel, arbitrators, and one of the key issues the Task Force reports on is time. There is the old adage, "time is money." With the use of a virtual conference suite, parties can save a tremendous amount of money by being efficient and smart with time.

Paragraph 28, "Need for a physical meeting," advises, "Consider whether it is appropriate to agree upon and sign the Terms of Reference without a physical meeting, i.e., by way of a telephone or video conference, as appropriate. In making that decision, the advantages of having a physical meeting at the start of the proceedings should be weighed against the time and cost involved." Using a conference center with all of the technology available to set up a video conference that enables two or more parties to participate, parties that are anywhere on the globe, can save a tremendous amount of money and travel time.

Paragraph 39 suggests the tribunal discuss with the parties using IT to save time, money, and create efficiencies. The ICC offers an online service, NetCase, which enables correspondence and documents for the arbitration to be stored and exchanged within a secure online environment hosted by the ICC. [Kramm Court Reporting](#) offers an online repository, Case24/7™, that could be used for sharing documents as well as keeping a calendar of events for the parties. The Task Force suggests once again the use of teleconferencing and video conferencing for hearings where attendance in person is not essential.

Paragraph 73 reads pursuant to Article 14(2) of the ICC Rules, hearings do not need to be held at the place of the arbitration. The tribunal and parties may choose the most convenient place for counsel and any necessary witnesses.



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Paragraph 74 advises for procedural hearings particularly, the use of teleconference and video conference is appropriate, and consider having a witness give evidence via [video conferencing](#).

Great arbitrators, brilliant attorneys, and smart expert witnesses are some of the busiest people on the planet. If they can save time and energy by not flying to a hearing, everyone wins. Using teleconferencing and video conferencing technology will save time and money.



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