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Project Director HUTCHINS, RONALD

Project Unit OIT

Sponsor SOUTHEASTERN UNIV RES ASSOC/WASHINGTON, D.C.

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Closeout Action:

Y/N	Date Submitted
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Final Invoice or Copy of Final Invoice	Y
Final Report of Inventions and/or Subcontracts	N
Government Property Inventory and Related Certificate	N
Classified Material Certificate	N
Release and Assignment	N
Other	N

Comments

NOTE: FINAL INVOICE MUST BE RECEIVED BY SPONSOR BY 1-31-99.

Distribution Required:

Project Director/Principal Investigator	Y
Research Administrative Network	Y
Accounting	Y
Research Security Department	N
Reports Coordinator	Y
Research Property Team	Y
Supply Services Department/Procurement	Y
Georgia Tech Research Corporation	Y
Project File	Y

Report on SURA CrossRoads Activities

Final Report for GIT Project A-70-630
Deliverable #1
(January 1998 – December 1998)

Submitted by Ron Hutchins
Team Leader
Management Team

to the

Southeastern Universities Research Association

December 1998

Report on SURA CrossRoads Activities

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Team Leader

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Introduction:

Over the last several months, the vision for the SURA CrossRoads project has matured substantially. What started as a set of regional relationships is now becoming a model for the new regional infrastructure that NSF may use in the next round of funding for high performance connections. Also, growth in the region has continued and from a connected university standpoint has caught up or surpassed that of other GigaPoPs in the nation. The MAX effort has made great progress in getting the visibility for the Next Generation Internetwork Crossconnect (NGIX) and is beginning to build out dedicated facilities near the Dulles Airport in the DC area.

States Connected to the SURA Crossroads:

As the MAX will most likely issue a report separate from this, I will focus on the connectivity coming in to Atlanta currently and in the near term.

In North Carolina - MCNC currently hubs: Duke, NCState, UNC Chapel Hill, and Cisco Research.

In Alabama - University of Alabama, Birmingham is currently connected and is expected to hub for University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, and University of Alabama, Huntsville: Auburn is bringing in a separate connection to Atlanta. BellSouth Labs in Birmingham has brought in a separate research link to the GigaPoP.

In Tennessee - Vanderbilt is currently connected with University of Tennessee, Knoxville planning to connect soon.

In Florida - FloridaNet aggregates University of Florida, Florida State University, and Miami University. Florida International University and Florida Atlantic have both applied for HPC awards. I have no status on these currently.

In Georgia - Georgia Tech and Georgia State University are connected currently with University of Georgia a possible awardee of an HPC award. No current status on this. Emory has been notified of a possible award and is planning to attach through Atlanta.

In South Carolina - University of South Carolina has applied for an HPC award and intends to connect through Atlanta. No other current status is available.

Kentucky has been awarded an HPC grand and is in the planning stages for possibly coming to Atlanta or interconnecting through NCSA. No other update at this time.

Other SURA members in the north are in current discussions with either SoX or MAX about connectivity. The northern participants are anticipated to come through MAX for their regional connectivity, partnering with Virginia Tech, University of Maryland, George Washington, Georgetown, and the other MAX members.

The vBNS connection into Atlanta is functioning well at the OC-3 speed currently. MCI has asked us to upgrade and this is a possibility as the traffic loading increases over time.

SURA Crossroads recognition in the community:

Several workshops have been held around the country/region where the SoX/MAX initiatives have been presented. Feedback has been very positive... In meetings in DC during the Internet2 members meeting, I was asked to present a brief history of the SURA effort in the GigaPoP Interest group for a number of new Internet2 members as well as visitors. This presentation was very well received. It was also interesting to go back over our history and see how far we have come in such a short time. This presentation will be available on the Sox.net web pages shortly. Also, I was invited to present the SURA effort to the Industry Breakfast for Internet2. There were three or four large efforts presented with a bent toward industry cooperation. Again, this was well received. Later in the Internet2 meeting a group of the largest regional GigaPoPs met to discuss how to coordinate regional issues, standards, and planning. The SURA region is leading this group currently. Gary Augustson, of Penn State and the Internet2 management team later discussed with Doug Van Houwelling, head of the Internet2 management team, the need that we presented in this group meeting for this GigaPoP management team. Internet2 has agreed with the need. Gary Augustson and Doug Van Houwelling have suggested that SURA/SOX pull together a working group to tackle these issues under the Internet2 banner. More discussion is needed to decide on the value of this effort, but the conversations are ongoing and important. I was approached by NSF staff who suggested that I organize a very small team of national players to present to the NSF CISE group as a whole on some of the ideas for future funding in support of the regional model. This relates directly to the post vBNS funding model and NSF's need to create this model on a very short time frame.

On the video front, Internet2 has recognized the SURA region as a major player in video and has included us in their publicized video planning. Although there has been some confusion in the announcements that have gone out, we are beginning to get calls from media organizations asking about our efforts. Chicago has begun organizing the video initiatives for Internet2 and they see SURA regional players as very important to the future of the effort.

SURA related workshops:

Joe Thompson, from Mississippi State University, hosted a conference on pricing issues in the underserved communities. This workshop included panels from Government, Universities, and Industry. These panel discussions and the other presentations raised the awareness of pricing issues in the region following on the heels of the Chicago pricing forum which was invitation only. (Mark Johnson, of MCNC, and I presented our stories at Chicago and they were very well received.) During the Mississippi conference, Foster McDonald, the President of ITC-Deltacom offered to work with Mississippi in installing fiber to solve their connectivity problem, and since then BellSouth has been very vocal on their intent to work toward a rational pricing model.

Future Activities:

More work is under way on the SSP program planning and should continue through November with a proposal to federal agencies as the ultimate goal positioning SURA as a leader in the simulation and networking areas as well as in the specific sciences that are represented in the program. Work continues between the MAX and SOX efforts to further the regional approach that we have developed and that has given so much visibility to SURA members. We are working in Atlanta and DC to build out a 24x7 support service by working with industry partners similar to the Chicago work with Ameritech. This would allow other production services to be carried over the same circuits as the research services, fleshing out the service offerings of the GigaPoPs and promoting other cost savings to our members.

