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Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee

(INCORPORATED IN THE A.C.T.)

Ref: AARNET/50/91 29 April 1991

The Australian Academic and Research Network 1991 Submissions

The AVCC has reeceived two additional project submissions after the April 15 deadline. Copies of these submissions are enclosed with this note. The complete summary of submissions is now:

	Institution	Project	Amount Requested
1	University of Queensland	Private X.25 network feasibility	\$10,000
2	Royal Melbourne Institute of	Technology Training Video	\$5,000
3	Royal Melbourne Institute of	Technology Interoperability Test Centre	\$23,506
4	University of Sydney	A/V Broadcasting over AARNet	\$16,250
5	James Cook University of No	rth Queensland Training Video	\$33,500
6	University of Technology Syd	dney Transputer User Interface	\$14,000
7	CSIRO, DMS	AARNet Time Reference	\$7,400
8	University of Technology Syd	dney AARNet Training Courses	\$7,000
9	University of Sydney	Information Archive Directories	\$20,000 -
10	University of Wollongong (p	lus Deakin & Adelaide) Archive Servers	\$50,000
11	University of New England	Novice User Interface	\$13,000 + print costs
12	University of Adelaide	Guru - Text Database	\$38,000
13	University of Queensland	X.400 mail services	\$15,000
Recieved on April 26:			
14	University of Tasmania	Antartic Connection	\$35,520
15	Griffith University	Fax Project	\$52,900

1-5 Geils Court, Deakin, ACT GPO Box 1142, CANBERRA, ACT 2601 Telephone: (06) 285 8200 Fax: (06) 285 8211

Technical Comments (Geoff Huston)

The criteria used in formulating these comments were based on a judgement as to whether the project would offer tangible results which would be of benefit to the AARNet user community, and additionally that the proposal was in support of an activity which would not otherwise be undertaken as a part of the institution's normal academic, research or service support activities.

Project #14 - Antartic Connection

This project could be accomplished at substantially lower cost than that proposed. The MGS router is not required for this activity as there is a surplus AGS router located in Victoria following the upgrade of the Victorian hub to an AGS+ unit. Thus, if required, the existing CGS chassis could be shifted over to the AAntartic division. Thus there are solutions which imply no capital equipment costs. In terms of recurrent communications costs I suspect that a 64K ISDN line or a 128K 4 wire cirtcuit, may be potential alternatives here, bot of which have a recurrent element of \$4,000 p.a..

The major issue here is perhaps one for the AARNet Advisory Board to consider of why should Affiliate Membership fees be waived for this activity. As a component of a Commonwealth Government Department, and as a Commonwealth funded program the major query in rference to this project is why should normal Affiliate membership policies be waived in this particular case

Project 15 - Fax Project

Fax communications over computer networks is an area of rapid development, and comercially available hardware/software solutions are now reaching the marketplace. At this stage I am not of the opinion that further development on possible hardware and software configurations is warranted.

The questions related to this area have shifted over the last 12 months to uncertainties relating to the cost effectivness of such a fax gateway message service, the costs of accessibility of such an AARNet-based service to those areas of the institutions who generate and receive faxes, and the associated control mechanisms related to access and usage for such gateways. Such issues are not addressed in this proposal.