

Third Frontier Network Applications Call to Collaboration –

FY 2003-2004 Technology Initiatives Grant Program

Background

The Technology Initiatives Advisory Committee has decided to focus the FY 2003-2004 round of Technology Initiative Grants in four areas. One of these is the need to make the network as useful as possible as quickly as possible.

The Third Frontier Network offers the possibility of using new or changed applications that can radically improve the way higher education achieves its mission in teaching, research, and service. Examples of these applications include high quality videoconferencing, grid computing, high definition television, and remote access to the output of scientific instruments.

Unfortunately, if the network were available today, it would not be possible to take full advantage of it. The reason is that there are numerous issues of contemporary network architectures that will make it difficult for the packets from these new applications to flow from end to end with the simplicity and quality of service that is our goal. One major issue is the barrier presented by the campus firewall. Others include the fact that the bandwidth separation that will obtain on the TFN side of the system will not likely obtain once the packets enter the campus.

Proposal Development

Given these difficulties, the Technology Initiatives Advisory Committee has decided to allocate up to \$750,000 for a project that will help determine the device specifications and network architectures needed on campuses to support new and enhanced applications over the Third Frontier Network. The Committee has requested that OSC/OARnet and the Regents coordinate the development of a proposal for this purpose, with the award ultimately going to a consortium of campuses.

To develop this proposal, the Regents and OSC/ OARnet invite interested institutions to participate in a meeting on 2-4 p.m., June 11, at OhioLINK. The purpose of this meeting is to consider ideas and suggestions for how the grant should be structured, and to discuss priorities. Please contact David Barber, dbarber@regents.state.oh.us with any questions about this meeting.

Subsequent to the meeting, Regents and OSC/OARnet will work with institutional representatives to develop a proposal. This proposal must be submitted to the Technology Initiatives Advisory Committee by June 24. The Committee will then review proposals and make its recommendation to the Board of Regents on July 19. It may request that the groups submitting proposals make a presentation on their project during the week of July 7.