

THE PRENTICE CENTRE

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COMMENTS:

The Queensland Government is completing stage two of a high speed computer network linking the state's tertiary institutions.

This makes Queensland the only Australian state with two megabit (two million bits per second) links between its universities.

The network, known as the Queensland Science and Technology Network (QSTN), links government universities and gives access to other tertiary and research facilities.

It is also an enabling technology for supporting the commercialisation of research and development in Queensland and an infrastructure to attract investment into Queensland.

Stage two of the network will upgrade computer links to a speed of two million bits per second (2 200,000 megabits per second) to James Cook University, Griffith University College of Southern Queensland, University of Southern Queensland (USQ), University of Central Queensland (UCQ) and the University of Queensland.

They will join other links between the University of Queensland, Griffith University and Queensland University of Technology which achieved links of these speeds in stage one.

Links to regional research will be from the QSTN to the Prentice Centre, The University of Queensland, which is coordinating implementation of a project known as QSTN/Prentice Link Manager.

The Office of the Manager of Research, Innovation and Regional Development, Mr Colin Bell, has made a \$75,000 available to The University of Queensland to buy stage two equipment on behalf of stage two participants. \$1,412,000 will be made available to the UCCQ and \$109,171 to (CU), ~~University of Central Queensland~~ and Telecom Australia ~~magill@tel.com.au~~.

Prentice Centre Director Mr John Bell said the centre was born out of an earlier Queensland tertiary institutions network developed and managed by the Prentice Centre. Data link and communications protocols were replaced by the Australian Academic Research Network (AARNet).

"During 1989 the Brisbane University of Technology, together with support from the State Government, formed the Technology Quadrangle," he said.

"At that time it was decided to link the network by a high speed network.

"The least costly way of doing this was to upgrade the proposed AARNet links from 48,000 text characters per second to 1.5 megabits/sec."

Prentice Centre network engineering services manager Mr Graham Rees said a number of firms now linked with research and development with The University of Queensland — such as Digital Equipment Corporation, Mincom software company, the Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Telecom — were already affiliated members of the network.

Other commercial firms interested with research with any of the institutions could join.

"These links will make it easier for us to access research capabilities and professional people in these institutions, and enable corporation executives and scientists to keep abreast of their tertiary peers and colleagues," he said.

Corporations requiring further details can contact Prentice (telephone 365 4143).

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Thanks Jan King