

# WORKING PARTY TO RATIONALIZE QUESTNET LINKS

## Work So Far

The work to rationalise data and voice communications links in South-east Queensland still has some way to go. However, a few things can be reported.

At a meeting on the 5th of May, delegates from the bodies controlling voice and data communications within the various institutions reported on the major communications links linking the various campuses of the institutions, and the institutions with each other. (see attachments). Delegates agreed to give further information as to the cost of those links. At this stage, some figures are still outstanding, but good estimates of present recurrent costs can be made. (see attachments)

## The Figures

The costings shown on the sheet need to be taken with a pinch of salt. For example, The University of Queensland currently needs to expand its data network to the Prince Charles Hospital, the Greenslopes Hospital, and to the Mater Hospital, which will inflate the internal communications figures for UQ. In addition, it will become necessary to upgrade the link to the Princess Alexandra Hospital sometime in the future.

On the other hand, in some places, potential savings through the application of Microwave links are exaggerated, since Megalinks are installed on contract for two years. For example, the Megalink from UQ St. Lucia to QTAC will need to be paid for until mid-1994. At this stage, the microwave link from St. Lucia to the dental school is not installed.

## Preliminary Findings

Notwithstanding the above, it would seem that there are monetary savings to be made by replacing the Megalink services between St. Lucia and QUT Gardens Point and St. Lucia and Griffith University with microwave links, perhaps at speeds greater than 2 Mbps. In addition, with the probability that Queensland Government Departments will want to connect, it is probably worthwhile to consider links to a Government Building in the city.

The current upgrade of its internal network by QUT will mean there is a window of opportunity for initial capital savings. Some of the microwave routes that are worth looking at are:

UQ St. Lucia	to	QUT Kelvingrove	(4x2Meg)
QUT Kelvingrove	to	RBH Herston	(1 or 2x2)
UQ St. Lucia	to	QG Admin Building	(4x2 - 8x2)
Admin Building	to	QUT/GU Gardens Pt.	(2x2 - 6x2)
UQ Gatton	to	USQ Tba	(1x2 - 2x2)

## The Next Step

At this stage it is difficult to go much further, because I don't have full information as to line-of sight between various points in Brisbane. The experiences of QUT in its tendering for microwave services will be very instructive, as it will allow a more realistic estimate of the capital cost involved in installing the links mentioned above.

## Stop Press - Fastpac

AOTC has recently released indicative pricing for its Fastpac service, and the service seems to be competitively priced. For data applications it would seem to be more cost-effective than Megalink, and should be considered for links that are difficult to join by microwave.

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