

ved: from ugvax.cc.uq.oz.au by broлга.cc.uq.oz.au id aa19584; 2 May 91 11:49 EST
Date: Thu, 2 May 91 11:49 EST
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Subject: bids for aarnet development monies
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Australian National University

Computer Services Centre

Draft Comments on the Bids to AARNet for Development Funding

I have used the guidelines which Alan used last year plus two others about which I have spoken to John Mullarvey.

The first is that if any project is to be funded for staff costs, the AVCC will only pay salary plus salary related costs. It will not pay inflated commercial consultancy rates.

The second is that we should not fund bids which are solely research related. We are not a research funding body.

Using last year's criteria plus the two above, and also having available Geoff's comments, I rank the bids as follows.

1 I agree with Geoff. I think that AARNet staff could coordinate this work since it is only really a gateway that is required. AARNet does not need an "AARNet wide X25 network".

2 I agree with Geoff. While the proposal is well presented, it does appear that the proposed video would be oriented to RMIT.

3 I agree with Geoff.

4 I agree with Geoff and would add that the use of AARNet is not required to develop such a project. It could be developed easily within a department. It does not need national links.

5 I agree with Geoff. This is a very grand scale video, at least for salary costs and does not compare well with the RMIT proposal, if AARNet ever wishes to have a video.

6 I agree with Geoff.

7 I believe there is some support for this project for technical reasons and I would support the modest grant requested. Perhaps it should be sited at the AARNet technical area.

8 I agree with Geoff. I do not particularly like the method proposed.

9 I partially agree with Geoff. It may be that the finger project may be a good stop gap for smaller local problems. It is certainly worthy of further discussion and evaluation.

10 I agree that this is a project worth supporting. The definition of exactly how it is implemented should be the subject of a discussion and a final report before approval.

11 I would not support this project

12 I would be more sympathetic to this proposal than Geoff. Presumably it would be the University of Adelaide who would be the contact. Provided the salary costs etc are within the guidelines above I have no problem. At least the first phase could be funded at a cost of \$13,500

13 I agree with Geoff.

14 If it can be done as Geoff suggests, at a very low cost, I have little problem in waving the affiliate fee given the nature of the collaboration and the high profile that it could obtain for Australia in Antarctica.

15 I agree with Geoff.

A general comment is that the sum of money set aside in the AARNet budget for these activities is far too high. We should advise the Board to reduce it by at least 50%.

I am going overseas for three weeks on Wednesday 8 May. Could I have your comments back please by lunchtime on Monday 6 May so that I can prepare a preliminary paper for the Board meeting at the end of May. If I do not hear from you by Monday, I shall assume that you are happy with the comments which have been made to date.

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Director, Computing Services
2 May 1991

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