

APAN TransPAC Proposal Update

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APAN Committee Meeting
TransPAC Proposal Update
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Indiana University submitted a Proposal to the National Science Foundation under their Solicitation NSF97-106 for High Performance International Internet Services (HPIIS). Indiana University proposed to establish a high bandwidth international Internet connection from the vBNS to the Asia Pacific Advanced Network (APAN) through the Science, Technology, and Research Transit Access Point (STARTAP) in Chicago, Illinois. The connection will support high bandwidth research applications and collaborations between various research and education institutions in APAN, Indiana University, the National Science Foundation's two premier high performance computing centers, and over 50 HPIIS authorized research and education institutions in the United States.

The proposal was submitted on August 16, 1997 and is currently under review. Initial comments about the proposal were favorable and Michael A. McRobbie, Indiana University Vice President for Information Technology and Principal Investigator is anticipating an official response toward the end of this calendar year.

If funded, Indiana University will jointly develop with APAN a US-Asia-Pacific (AP) Network Consortium, TransPAC, with three of the world's major international carriers: Kokusai Denshin Denwa, Co., Ltd. Of Japan (KDD), Korea Telecom (KT), and AT&T in the US who will provide the main networking infrastructure. The consortium will provide US HPIIS institutions with high bandwidth access to an unprecedented number of outstanding research and education institutions in the Asia-Pacific region who will be connected by the APAN infrastructure.

The development of this trans-Pacific research network and accompanying services will support collaboration between researchers in the US and Asia in a broad range of applications including astronomy, molecular biology, high energy physics medicine, meteorology, visualization and computational science.

Based on the information received in the process of developing the proposal, Indiana University is developing a database of APAN/US applications. This database will serve as an on-line resource to APAN and US institutions in identifying areas in which the nature of research being conducted in the US and Asia is complementary. Participating institutions will be notified when the resource is available and contributions and updates are welcome.

Indiana University is confident that through TransPAC, many institutions will have access to unique resources and there will be great benefits realized from partnerships between Asia-Pacific and US HPIIS institutions.

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