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Dear Colleagues:

I am pleased to report that this week the boards of Internet2 and National LambdaRail each passed resolutions to begin discussions towards consolidation of the two organizations. These resolutions endorse the recommendations of reports recently completed by Group A and Group B, both of which were convened by the National LambdaRail Board and the Internet2 Network Planning and Policy Advisory Council, with the endorsement of the Internet2 Board.

Group B, which completed its work just last week, has recommended that National LambdaRail and Internet2 work together to form "a single national entity responsible for the collective high-performance production and experimental networking needs of higher education and the larger research community." Group B built on the work of Group A, which examined and analyzed the technical and operational requirements for a future advanced networking environment.

Tom West, CEO of National LambdaRail, and I understand, as did the knowledgeable individuals that comprised Groups A and B, that advanced networking has become fundamental to the work of research and education, and that maintaining a solid foundation for its continued progress is vital to our shared community.

Tom and I strongly believe that we can best secure that foundation by bringing our organizations together, and are hopeful we can do so quickly. We will be working diligently over the next few months, joined by a small focused team, to develop a plan that will be submitted to both Boards for their consideration and approval. Our objective is to put in place an organization worthy of the communities we serve and to ensure that higher education and our research communities continue to be leaders in the development of new networking capabilities that set the stage for the global Internet of tomorrow.

The reports from Group A and Group B, as well as the resolutions by the Internet2 and National LambdaRail boards, can be found on either the Internet2 ([www.internet2.edu](http://www.internet2.edu)) or the National LambdaRail ([www.nlr.net](http://www.nlr.net)) websites.

As we begin to move ahead, I would particularly welcome your suggestions and feedback. Thank you for your support of this important effort.

Sincerely,

Douglas E. Van Houweling  
President & CEO