USAWaves Update

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Dedicated “… to growing the scientific capacity of our region and the nation”
About SURA

• 501(c)3 consortium of 62 research universities from 16 southeastern states, DC and Massachusetts (MIT)

• Founded in 1980 to build Jefferson Lab, a DOE-funded nuclear physics facility in Newport News, VA

• Created one of the first NSF funded regional networks, SURANet
  – Sold SURANet in 1995 to BBN
Recent History

• Regional gigapop support – SoX and MAX

• Crossroads Initiative (Launch Spring ‘00)
  – GEO-Matrix contract
    • Mapped member locations plus other institutions
    • Explored telecom vendors as suppliers / partners

• Partner with Southern Govs’ Association
  – Scientific initiatives
    • SURA Coastal Ocean Observing System (SCOOP)
    • Southern eCorridors Project (VaTech Model)
    • BioGrid Initiative (NC Triangle Schools)
Crossroads Initiative

• Resulted in partnership discussions with Velocita

• Sought access to low-cost dark fiber for SURA region

• Economics drove to discussions with extended R&E community
National Buyers Cooperative (NBC)

• Formed “National Buyers Cooperative”
  – Pursued Velocita partnership – through Chapter 11 to liquidation
  – Currently ~80 universities and academic networking organizations

• Goal to leverage broad regional needs and purchasing power to acquire fiber and wave services for R&E community

• Open to not-for-profit R&E organization
Shift to AT&T

- Velocita assets acquired by AT&T through bankruptcy auction
- Discussions continued with AT&T
- Resulted in Letter of Intent to create a long-term cooperative agreement
Key Elements of the AT&T Collaboration

Part 1: Fiber

- No-cost lease of dark fiber on NexGen network
- No-cost lease of additional NexGen fiber (O&M costs waived) - optical research pilot projects
- Donation of Cisco equipment from Velocita
- Very low cost IRUs for additional dark fiber
AT&T Next Generation Network
Key Elements of the AT&T Collaboration

Part 2: Waves

- Leases base on approximate incremental costs on current AT&T production network
  - OC-48 and OC-192 “lambda leases”

- Commitment to provide similar approximate incremental cost-based pricing for waves on AT&T NexGen network when available
AT&T’s Existing Inter-City Fiber Routes (620 POPs)
Significance of AT&T Offer

• Precedent setting – “disruptive pricing model”
  – Can “mix and match” fiber and waves
  – No fixed minimums & No exclusivities
• Immediately available wave leases on largest operational network in the country
  – 600+ POPs – many in common carrier hotels and / or shared POPs and meet-me-rooms
  – over 100 rings across country + metro fiber
• Next Generation
  – Offer to collaborate on electronics choice
  – Approximate incremental pricing applies
USAWaves

- “USAWaves” reserved as National Buyers Cooperative vehicle … NBC not available!
- Vehicle for the administration of cooperative agreement – low cost startup and overhead
- Covered under the SURA 501(c)3 umbrella – insurance / liability / ownership … and more
- Scalable to independent entity as desirable
Operational Model

• Operated as if a not-for-profit membership corporation
  – Governed by member-set principles
  – Managed as a buyers cooperative

• Equal participation (equal votes)

• No “club fees” to join – but may be some costs that will need to be recovered

• Whatever else the cooperative members think should be included …
What’s the goal?

- USAWaves is about “connectivity” tools (fiber / waves) “… to grow the scientific capacity of our region and the nation …”
- Not a Network or Backbone Initiative
  - Intended to address “connectivity” needs, not the entire set of end-to-end issues
  - Should support various initiatives (national, regional, state, metro, rural)
  - It’s intended to be a cooperative effort
USAWaves Update

... Discussions AT&T

- All contract business issues are resolved

- AT&T lawyers’ final contract changes being made today for signature

“... less is more ...”