

**Telecommunications and Informatics Task Force (TITF)
Financial Report/Outcomes from Year 1 Funding**

Year 1 Financial Report

- Networking Engineering Program \$114,000
Note: The Academy for Advanced Telecommunications and Learning Technologies (The Academy), through the Institute for Telecommunications and Information Technologies division, funded an additional \$36,000 for a total of \$150,000

 - Matching on Life Sciences Task Force Proposal for Computer Science \$ 36,000
Note: The Academy funded an additional \$8,000 for a total of \$44,000

 - Texas A&M University Digital Library (TAMUDL) \$100,000
- Total FY2000 Allocation: \$250,000

Year 1 Outcomes

Several projects and funding resulted from these initial seed monies:

- Dr. Wei Zhao's National Science Foundation Information Technology Research (ITR) grant, "On a Virtual Laboratory for Network Engineering Educational Programs," was funded for \$343,806. According to the NSF, the awards will spur fundamental research and innovative applications of information technology and are a step toward building on U.S. leadership in this growing area of importance to the economy. A total of 210 projects were selected from more than 1,400 proposals submitted to the NSF.

- Marconi Communications is donating over \$650,000 worth of equipment and software to Texas A&M University's newly established Network Engineering Laboratory. The lab will be a research and educational facility to teach students the latest network engineering practices and will include a live and virtual component. Through additional grants and contracts, Marconi Communications plans to realize its goal to contribute \$1 million to Texas A&M.

- The \$100,000 contributed towards the set up costs of TAMUDL, augmented nearly \$800,000 from other sources. These funds were used to establish a state-of-the-art digitizing facility and an enhanced storage array for use by faculty and departments. Various departments across the campus are engaging both for a number of projects. The software being developed for TAMUDL by Silicon Graphics, Inc. is nearing completion and will, in turn, enable utilization and development of other applications for specific uses.

- This year, TAMUDL was moved under The Academy to best leverage it as a resource in the areas of telecommunications and informatics. Already, TAMUDL is exhibiting promising prospects as an infrastructure initiative. A joint proposal by TAMUDL and the College of Veterinary Medicine has been funded by the United State Department of Agriculture (USDA) for the creation of a pilot

database of animal diseases and a digital library-based diagnostic tool application. A pilot for digitizing dissertations and theses of Texas A&M graduates and making available over the web was successfully completed. A proposal to establish protocol to implement this on full-scale is under consideration with the University committee responsible. Proposals have been submitted to provide integration of online course materials, both textual and audio-video, using TAMUDL as a single point of access for students, faculty and distance learners. Other projects, completed and underway, may be accessed on the web at <<http://dl.tamu.edu>>.