MINUTES

LOUISIANA OPTICAL NETWORK INITIATIVE
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
December 14, 2004

The Louisiana Optical Network Initiative (LONI) Management Council met at 2:00 p.m.,

Tuesday, December 14, 2004, in the 6th Floor Board Conference Room in the Claiborne

Building, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Chair Les Guice called the meeting to order. Mr. Dave

Nicklas, Secretary/Treasurer, called the roll and a quorum was established.

Present:
Les Guice, Chair
John Lawson, Vice Chair
David Nicklas, Secretary/Treasurer
Duane Blumberg
Steve Landry
Laura Levy
Kenneth Maloney
Ed Seidel
Harold Silverman
Jeffery Smith
Michael Stubblefield
Joel Tohline
Victor Ukpolo
Donald Vandal

Absent:	Connie Koury, Board of Regents
	Michael Khonsari, Board of Regents
Victor Ukpolo	Renee Lorio, UL System
	Charlie McMahon, LSU
Guests:	Kyle Poulsen, CISCO
	E. Joseph Savoie, Board of Regents
Robert Groeneveld, Bellsouth	Sharon Southall, UL System

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 30, 2004, MINUTES

> **On motion of Mr. Dave Nicklas, seconded by Dr. Duane Blumberg, the LONI Management Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the November 30, 2004, LONI Management Council meeting.**

NLR AND LONI MANAGEMENT COUNCIL LEADERSHIP UPDATES

Mr. Mike Abbiatti, Associate Commissioner for Information and Learning Technology, presented the National LambdaRail (NLR) and LONI Management Council Leadership updates. He stated that the Board of Regents is a member of the NLR. He noted that NLR has been focusing on putting together the northern route of NLR, but now NLR is moving toward Baton Rouge and turning its attention to the southern route.

Dr. Guice said that leadership team meetings of the officers and the three chief advisors are held between the regularly scheduled meetings to better prepare for the LONI Management Council (LMC) meetings.

Chair Guice said that, in response to the discussion of the LONI Governance Plan at the last Council meeting, the plan has been revised by the Council Leadership. The revised Governance Plan was submitted to the Commissioner and approved by the Board of Regents at its meeting on December 9, 2004. He reiterated that a key role is to use the advisors to guide the LMC in making decisions.

LONI OVERVIEW BRIEFING

Chair Guice said that a suggestion was made at the last meeting to have a presentation of the development and status of LONI made to the LMC. This would lay the groundwork for the deployment and implementation of the network. Dr. Guice said that Dr. Ed Seidel, Chief Scientist and Research Advisor, would speak about the vision of LONI research, Mr. Mike Abbiatti would speak about NLR, and Mr. Charlie McMahon, Director of Telecommunications at LSU and A&M College, would give a network overview. Also, Dr. Steve Landry from ULL and Technical Advisor of the LMC, would discuss major actions for deployment, and Dr. Duane Blumberg, Undersecretary of the Department of Economic Development and Economic Development Advisor for LMC, would talk about LONI's economic development mission.

Dr. Ed Seidel began by giving a powerpoint presentation on the LONI network. He discussed the basic plans to use LONI as a scientific instrument for raising research development across the state and for understanding the importance of LONI as an economic development tool. He said the network is about 1,000 times faster than what is presently in place in many links across the state between universities. He said there are ideas to deploy computational facilities at many sites across the state and link them together. He said it also requires an expert staff. He mentioned that once LONI is deployed, Louisiana can be a top leader and top user of high speed networking.

He said that Louisiana has been invited to participate in the EnLIGHTened Computing and the GridChem:Cyberinfrastrucutre and Computational Chemistry projects. He said the Chemistry project is of great interest to DOW Chemicals which would create a great partnership.

Dr. Seidel said, that in addition to the hardware, LONI needs staffing and expertise. He mentioned that LONI has to deploy complex software across the computing environment. Dr.

Seidel said LONI has the profile to attract partnerships with NSF, Department of Energy, NASA and other groups around the world. He said training is very important, and there is a need to send messages to the provosts at the universities to make investments in faculty and staff to take advantage of LONI and use it as a lure for new generations of faculty and staff.

Next, Mr. Abbiatti explained that NLR is a national fiber optic infrastructure network and a world class tool for everyone. He said that a goal of NLR is to enable technology transfer into commercial development, creating new markets and stimulating economic development. Mr. Abbiatti, who is on the National Board of Directors of NLR, commented that the NLR Board is very aware of the LONI Management Council in Louisiana, and the state has gained much respect. He said that another partner in NLR is Internet 2 and discussions have ensued about possibly pairing Internet 2 with LONI.

He noted that a list of members and a map of NLR were included in today's packet of information. He stated that Louisiana is a member of NLR for 5 years. He observed that over $100 million for LONI has been provided by non-federal government resources.

Dr. Seidel noted that some European countries are ahead of Louisiana in the field of optical networking. He said that the LSUBR campus is searching for a CIO for its campus, and some of the applicants are interested in the position because of LONI.

Next, Charlie McMahon stated that the 5 public institutions of higher learning (LA Tech, LSUBR, SUBR, ULL, UNO) that participated in Governor Mike Foster's Information Technology Initiative, the state's public health science center (LSUHSC-NO/LSUHSC-S) and Tulane University were invited to be partners of LONI.

He noted that it was important to think about the kind of services that LONI can provide

and the necessity to build three different networks which are (1) research, (2) big science, and (3) common traffic, such as email and websites.

He noted the cost drivers of LONI include salaries, maintenance, and the fiber itself. Mr. McMahon said that equipment will be the single largest cost item. He said that the legal aspects of the SURA Board donating two strands of fiber already in place was being reviewed by Connie Koury, legal counsel for the Board of Regents.

Member Laura Levy inquired if Tulane University Health Sciences Center could be served since it was not a member of LONI. Mr. McMahon indicated that fiber from the LSUHSC in New Orleans was already being put in place that could link to Tulane Health Sciences Center.

Dr. Jeffery Smith of Delgado Community College asked where LCTCS fits into LONI. Mr. McMahon said according to the LMC Governance Plan, one of the responsibilities of the LMC is to make recommendations regarding additional institutions participating in LONI.

Mr. Donald Vandal, Board of Regents, inquired as to the status of the fiber bid. Mr. McMahon said it currently was at State Purchasing. He said a meeting is scheduled for this Thursday, December 16, 2004, with State Purchasing to review the RFP. He said it should be released to the public before Christmas. He said the local loop issue is not addressed in the fiber bid.

Dr. Guice questioned the process needed to ensure timely approval from the Board of Regents to award the backbone fiber contract. Mr. Vandal said that it could be requested at an upcoming meeting of the Regents to authorize the Commissioner of Higher Education to execute

any contracts for fiber routing. Dr. Guice asked Mr. Vandal to come back at is next meeting with a response.

Dr. Steve Landry reviewed with the Council the time line of several items. He discussed the Network Component, NLR Node, GRID/Cluster Computational and Local Campus Issues. (See Attachment A.)

Lastly, Dr. Duane Blumberg spoke on the role of LONI and economic development. He acknowledged the extraordinary work done on this project by Mr. Charlie McMahon. He also thanked Dr. Seidel for noting the Milken Institute publication in his presentation. Dr. Blumberg read from the LONI Governance Plan which states that LONI is to positively impact higher education and economic development in the state. He said the creation of non-state government jobs and capital investment will be significant impacts on Louisiana. He mentioned that there would be an increase in research and development partnerships, more opportunities for existing businesses in Louisiana and a creation of new businesses in Louisiana.

He further pointed out the need to:

a. adopt a formal statement of the economic development vision of LONI,
b. form an economic development advisory group;
c. keep in mind the economic development aspect of LONI while working on the operating policies; and
d. inform businesses and the institutions of higher learning and others about LONI.

Dr. Blumberg reminded the Council of the importance to concentrate first on research and development and later include workforce training, etc.

ADDITIONAL ACTION ITEMS

Mr. McMahon reminded the Council that the backbone fiber bid will soon be completed and possibly out before Christmas. He expressed concerns about the time frame of the bid. He said that if the bid goes out before Christmas, he felt it should be returned within a maximum of 45 days, but if it is after Christmas, then a maximum of 30 days. Mr. McMahon said that issue would be discussed at State Purchasing on Thursday, December 16, 2004.

Dr. Guice reminded everyone to submit names of recommended advisors.

After some discussion of the domain name for LONI,

On motion of Dr. Steve Landry, seconded by Dr. Duane Blumberg, the LONI Management Council voted unanimously to authorize the pursuit and purchase of the domain name of *LONI.org* not to exceed a cost of $1,000.

Chair Guice addressed the need to secure the necessary resources to ensure timely deployment of the network. He indicated that due to Mr. Charlie McMahon's expertise, involvement and knowledge in the LONI project, that he was recommending that arrangements be made to obtain up to half of Mr. McMahon's time, as well as up to three additional technical staff, through a contractual agreement with LSU to conclude at the end of the fiscal year.

On motion of Dr. Duane Blumberg, seconded by Mr. Dave Nicklas, the LONI Management Council voted unanimously to request the Commissioner of Higher Education, in consultation with Chair Guice, to enter into negotiations with LSU officials to obtain the services of Mr. Charlie McMahon on a temporary part-time basis through June 30, 2005. Up to three technical staff would also be employed on a temporary part-time basis through June 30, 2005, to assist in deployment of LONI and meeting deadlines.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to be discussed.

PUBLIC EVENTS IN SUPPORT OF LONI

There were no public events in support of LONI to be discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the LONI Management Council, on motion of Chair Guice, seconded by Vice Chair Lawson, the meeting adjourned at 4:08 p.m.

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ATTACHMENT A

Louisiana Optical Network Initiative
Overview of Near-term Action Items
December 14, 2004

I.   Network Component
- A.   Backbone Fiber
- 1.   Bid On Street – Dec 20, 2004 – Feb 21, 2005
- 2.   AT&T Grid Fiber Agreement (SURA assignment to LONI)
    - A.   New Orleans to Lake Charles; Shreveport to Monroe
    - B.   SURA/AT&T/LONI agreement - ASAP
- 3.   Evaluate Bid - Feb 21, 2005 – March 7, 2005 (duration 2 weeks)
- 4.   Present to LONI MC - March 8, 2005
- 5.   Award backbone fiber contract – March 28, 2005 (allows 3 weeks for final negotiations and contractual review and execution)
- 6.   Obtain Access and make ready - March 29, 2005 – April 26, 2005 (allows only 30 days – incredibly optimistic)
- B.   Electronics: Optical DWDM multiplexers, switches and routers, etc.
- 1.   Finalize equipment specification and selection
- 2.   Navigate purchasing options so as to ensure equipment ordered for delivery consistent with installation schedule (April – May 2005)

II.   NLR Node
- A.   Fiber between NLR PoP and LSU
- B.   Bid:
    - 1.   Issue in December and on the street for 30 days
    - 2.   Open either late January or early February and evaluate by mid-February.
    - 3.   Order equipment mid February.
    - 4.   With aggressive work can be ready for April/May 2005 NLR connection

III.   GRID/Cluster Computational
- A.   LONI science and technical team spec cluster components
- B.   Prep and issue bid (or select from state contract)
- C.   Selection, order and contract
- D.   Installation

IV.   Local Campus Issues
- A.   Campus team identified
- B.   Work with LONI Network Staff to prep for LONI: points of entry for fiber, location of electronics, location of the computers, environmental issues: HVAC, Power, etc.
- C.   Determine campus vs. LONI responsibilities

V.   Staffing issues?

NOTES: Delegation of Authority from OTM to BOR