

Yeager, Scott

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Subject: MAE-West
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Priority: High

I have had a lot of discussions over the last month with members of the Internet community and it seems like the time has never been better to set up a MAE-West. The turmoil surrounding the CIX and the uncertainty related to the NAP makes right now a very good time to announce a MAE-West service, but before we do, we have to recognize the differences between MAE-East and MAE-West and figure out some issues internally, not the least of which is the availability of dark fiber to NASA Ames.

The biggest difference between MAE-East and MAE-West is the involvement of the Feds. The Federal Internet Exchange Point - "FIX-West" - is located today at NASA Ames, and is run by a guy named Milo Medin. With the transition of the NSFNET backbone to individual NSPs, Milo's main concern is to ensure that the FIX-W has connectivity to the three major NSPs - Sprint, MCI and ANS. Now all the IXCs have a deal with AMES where they have run thier own fiber right onto the base. This means that Sprint and MCI can get to Ames without using any LEC or CAP. So Sprintlink and MCINet have available to them high bandwidth connectivity to the FIX at little or no cost. THIS MEANS THAT MAE-WEST WILL EXIST AT AMES.

This doesn't mean that MAE-West can't also exist based out of the MFS colo facility in San Jose. Milo is going to build a commercial interconnection network much like what we have done with MAE-East + here in DC, namely an FDDI ring where companies come and co-locate their router and get a conneciton onto the ring. If we were to use dark fiber and extend that ring back to the San Jose co-lo, we could offer the exact same suite of services we do here in DC for MAE-East. By the end of this year, MAE-East will be billing approximately \$40K per month. There is no reason we can not duplicate that success in San Jose.

UUNET has already told me they would use this service. Peter Ford at NSF tells me he supports this concept. How often do UUNET and NSF agree on anything?!? We've got to do this!

I know that Telecom is in the middle of building an OC-12 into Nasa Ames. The key questions for us are: 1) Will Telecom sell us dark fiber to Ames at a reasonable rate, and if so, how soon can we get it? and 2) Is co-lo space readily available in San Jose?

Timing is critical here. If we can announce FDDI connectivity to Ames that goes operational by the end of the year, we can lock up this business before it gets away from us.

So, who should we be talking to in Telecom?