



THE QUILT

QUILT TALK

February 2008

Quilt Talk

Welcome to the first edition of "Quilt Talk", a monthly update on topical items for Quilt members and the R&E advanced networking community. Additional items of interest can also be found on The Quilt's website at www.thequilt.net

Quilt News

Our First Month as The Quilt, Inc.

With the support of our membership and executive committee leadership we have made a successful transition to the new organizational structure. Mark Johnson, CTO of MCNC in North Carolina will serve as The Quilt's Chair this year and Paul Schopis, Director of Networking with OSCnet in Ohio, will serve as Vice Chair.

The Quilt's Focus in 2008

The Quilt's Executive Committee recently met to review the summary of priorities collected by Quilt members in its annual strategic planning session last fall and construct a set of priorities for The Quilt in 2008. The Quilt's focus in 2008 will center around four main areas; focus on the business of operating RON's, implement a communication plan to promote Quilt and Quilt member activities, perform community outreach,

continued on page 2

QUILT CONTACTS

Executive Director – Hud Croasdale

Email: hud@thequilt.net

Program Manager – Jen Leasure

Email: jen@thequilt.net

Quilt Website

www.thequilt.net

Other News

FCC Rural Healthcare Pilot Project

In support of its members who have either been named as service providers or who plan to participate in the project's competitive bid process, The Quilt established a RHCPP Resource Page to collect and archive important dates, communications and websites resources in one location. By member request, The Quilt has also scheduled its second Quilt Forum Call for this month to support Regionals in their RHCPP efforts. As there are already a host of other calls on this topic to participate in on a regular basis, Quilt Forum calls will only be held on an as-needed basis to provide a forum to discuss topics of importance to Regional and State Networks that are not addressed in other forums.

Educause Network Policy Council

At the end of January, Educause released its White Paper titled "A Blueprint for Big Broadband" by John Windhausen Jr. which addresses the need for the U.S. to develop a policy to bring broadband services to each U.S. home. An executive summary and the paper in its entirety are linked from The Quilt's main website page.

Trusted Internet Connections (TIC) Initiative

In November 2007, the OMB announced its TIC Initiative to optimize individual network services into a common solution for federal agencies. The goal of the initiative is to go from the 2000+ reported network connections for federal agencies down to 50 or so by the summer of 2008. Plans of Actions and Milestones from all government agencies to comply with the initiative were due by January 2008. It is important for Quilt members who have federal agency connectors to understand each agency's TIC compliance plan.

support newly defined Quilt organization. For more information on Quilt activities and programs in 2008, please contact your Quilt participant representative or email info@thequilt.net.

The Quilt's 2008 Commodity Internet Service Request for Proposals Update.

In December 2007, The Quilt released its fifth commodity internet service (CIS) RFP. The goal of the RFP is to negotiate master agreements with national CIS providers for Quilt member and authorized buyers. Authorized CIS Vendors will be announced in May 2008.

New to this RFP was the inclusion of two RFI's for VoIP and lambda services. The Quilt may or may not award contracts for these services based on the information provided by responding vendors.

More information on The Quilt's RFP can be found at <http://www.thequilt.net/proj-cis/2008RFP/2008CISRFPHome.html>

GENI Project Update

The GENI Program announced its second engineering conference to be held in Arlington, VA March 3-4, 2008. More details can be found at the GENI website www.geni.net

QUILT CALENDAR OF EVENTS

BUSINESS MODEL WORKSHOP - SERVICES AND PRICING MODELS

MARCH 25, 2008

MIAMI, FL

QUILT SPRING MEMBER MEETING

MARCH 26-27, 2008

MIAMI, FL

QUILT NETWORK OPERATIONS CENTER WORKSHOP

JUNE 3-4, 2008

NEWARK, DE

QUILT FALL MEMBER MEETING

SEPTEMBER 24-25, 2008

NEWPORT, RI



