VT-RNet: A 10-Gbps Research Network for Virginia Tech
Request for Proposals for Extended Program Participation

Program Description: Network Infrastructure & Services (NI&S) and Advanced Research Computing (ARC) within Virginia Tech’s Division of Information Technology (IT) are collaborating to develop a pilot research network, VT-RNet. NI&S and ARC invite proposals for 10-gigabit per second (Gbps) connections to the proposed VT-RNet. Virginia Tech faculty members are requested to identify research and instructional activities that will benefit substantially from a persistent high-bandwidth 10-Gbps connection. Only a limited number of connections will be awarded. This planned expansion of the initial VT-RNet is made possible by a CC*DNI grant from the National Science Foundation and funds provided by the Office of the Vice President for Information Technology.

Eligibility: All Virginia Tech faculty on the Blacksburg campus and at other locations served directly by NI&S are eligible to submit a proposal. Multiple faculty members may submit a single proposal, and are encouraged to do so when they can demonstrate increased research or educational impact, but it is expected that only one connection to a specific location will be provided per successful proposal.

Proposal Preparation and Submission: Each proposal must include (i) the faculty member name(s), unit(s), and contact information; (ii) the desired location (building and room number) for the 10-Gbps connectivity and the system or device to be connected; (iii) a brief description of the research and/or instruction that will utilize the system or device; (iv) justification of need for a 10-Gbps connection; and (v) a description of the impact on current and future competitiveness. Submissions are limited to three letter-sized pages in 11-point font and should be sent as a PDF file to Dr. Mark Gardner, mkg@vt.edu.

Evaluation and Selection Process: Submissions will be evaluated on the basis of (i) expected impact of 10-Gbps network connectivity on current research and/or instruction; (ii) improved competitiveness for future grants and scholarship; (iii) readiness of the building where the connection is requested and cost considerations; and (iv) impact on possible future extension of VT-RNet. The selection team may ask follow-up questions of submitters.

Process Schedule: Submissions may be made at any time. Awards will be made while funds are available.

Deliverables: Each successful participant must provide reports demonstrating the benefits resulting from the improved connectivity. The report must include a list of publications, proposal submissions, grants awarded, and any other research and/or instruction related output resulting from the 10-Gbps connection. The reports are due on the last business day in March, July, and November each year while the connection is activated.

Terms: Selected submitters will be provided with 10-Gbps connectivity to the campus core network and to national research networks (via MARIA and Internet2) for the price of 1-Gbps Enhanced Ethernet network service (currently $15/month). Connectivity to VT-RNet will be provided up to October 22, 2021 under these terms. Recipients will be required to sign a memorandum of understanding before the service will be provided.

Point of contact: Dr. Mark Gardner, mkg@vt.edu, Advanced Research Computing

Last Revised: 2017-02-01 11:52:40