

The Provision of Advice on Network Infrastructure Reliability for JANET Connected Organisations

Introduction

This document outlines the requirement for the provision of advice on network infrastructure reliability for JANET connected organisations and seeks proposals for this work to be undertaken.

Background

Organisations that connect to JANET are increasingly dependent on their connection to the network. Although connections from site networks onto JANET are generally reliable, the impact of a substantial outage can be serious to the organisation affected. Similarly there is also high reliance on site networks which are the final links in the delivery chain of the provision of services to end users.

The results from the SuperJANET5 requirements analysis highlighted JANET reliability as an area of concern, recognising that JANET is currently very reliable but institutions' business continuity planning has led to demands for resilience against loss of network facilities. UKERNA is continually striving to improve the reliability of the SuperJANET backbone and Regional Networks and one of the aims of the SuperJANET5 project is to reduce the number of Single Points of Failure. UKERNA is working with Regional Network Operators to improve the reliability of Regional Networks as part of a major funding initiative within the SuperJANET5 project.

A further area of activity that has been identified is the provision of advice to JANET connected organisations on network reliability with the aim of helping them to identify and understand the risks facing their organisation networks and their connection(s) to JANET. In order to assimilate this advice UKERNA is seeking to commission a package of work to produce advice aimed at senior managers at JANET connected organisations that have strategic responsibility for network service infrastructure.

Scope

There will be three phases to this work which are described below.

Phase 1:

Assess in broad terms the current requirements from network infrastructure and JANET connections of JANET connected organisations. In doing this identify the level of dependence that JANET connected organisations have on their local network infrastructure and their connection to JANET.

Identify the range of general risks facing JANET connected organisations network infrastructure and their connection to JANET.

The deliverable from this phase will be a report to UKERNA.

Phase 2:

Explore the range of practical approaches and strategies that can be adopted to manage risks, taking into account the results from Phase 1, and provide advice on the application of these to individual institution circumstances. Case studies should be produced to illustrate the effective use of the practical approaches and strategies identified.

The deliverable from this phase will be an advisory document aimed at senior managers at JANET connected organisations who have strategic responsibility for network service infrastructure.

Phase 3:

Taking into account the work conducted in phase 1 and 2 assess in broad terms the risks that JANET connected organisations are facing and the options available to control them.

The deliverable from this phase will be a report to UKERNA for it and the JISC to consider whether a national strategy would be appropriate in this area.

Timescales and funding

A response to the request for proposals should be submitted to UKERNA by Friday 17th December 2004. A contract will be awarded to the successful bidder by Friday 21st January 2005.

Phases 1 and 2 should be complete by the end of May 2005.
Phase 3 should be complete by the end of July 2005.

Funding for effort, travel and subsistence etc. is available to produce the report.

Submitting a proposal to undertake this work

To enable UKERNA to commission this work proposals are required from interested parties.

Proposals should be submitted by e-mail, attached as an MS-WORD or PDF document, to Rhian Best at UKERNA (e-mail: R.Best@ukerna.ac.uk) by the deadline specified above.

Any general queries relating to this initiative should be sent to Mr Henry Hughes (e-mail: H.Hughes@ukerna.ac.uk, Tel: 01235 822265).

The proposal should include:

Relevant experience of person(s) undertaking the work.

The person(s) undertaking this work must have had experience of being responsible for a large organisations network infrastructure.
Ideally this experience should have been gained within the academic and JANET context.

Method

Details of how the work of the three phases will be conducted.

Project plan

A project plan.

Costs

All costs associated with this proposal should be provided and broken down according to:

Staff costs

Travel and Subsistence

Consumables

Other (please specify)