

Today's E-business News

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**Govt budgets US\$16.2mn for local research networks - Brazil**

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Brazil's science and technology ministry plans to invest 40mn reais (US\$16.2mn) through year-end 2006 to interconnect metropolitan research and education institutes in the country's 26 state capitals, project official Marcus Vinicius confirmed for BNamericas.

The project is called the national research network program (RNP) and Vinicius is RNP communication and marketing director. In a second stage, these local networks will be integrated into one nationwide network.

The first three implementations were recently initiated in Pernambuco state capital Recife, Pará state capital Belém and Amazonas state capital Manaus. In Recife alone the network will interconnect more than 20 institutions. Investments for Recife and Manaus are 1.2mn reais each, while the project in Belém received 1.1mn reais.

"Belém was the pilot project, a joint venture between the local government and local companies, and now we will extend the idea on a nationwide scale," Vincius said. The first local networks will be ready in August this year.

The local networks have Optical Ground Wire (OPGW) backbones that allow transmission capacities of 1Gbps and include VoIP services. The nationwide network will have multi-GB connections with transmission capacities of at least 2.5Gbps and will connect 10 points in the south, southeast and northeast.

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