ATIC PLATFORM STATEMENT

ADVANCED APPLICATIONS

Whether it's business, government, education, health care or community services, technology is changing the way Arizona does business. Wired or wireless, the transition in communications is clear: We are moving from a world of simple voice communication and isolated desktop computing to an interconnected world where multimedia messages and communications will reach us anytime and anyplace. An advanced telecommunications infrastructure therefore is essential for Arizona to effectively participate in this networked world.

Once a telecommunications infrastructure is in place, it represents an opportunity that Arizona should be aggressive in developing, adapting and using. Voice, video and data applications will converge to ride over the telecommunications infrastructure. It is these types of applications that will support the emerging and evolving requirements of education, economic development and community services by linking the citizens of the State of Arizona. Examples of such applications include e-learning (the NAUNet Distance Learning Network, the School Facilities Board Students FIRST implementation), telemedicine (the Arizona Telemedicine Program), bioinformatics (for the proposed International Genomics Consortium), rich media content and video on demand to homes and mobile individuals as well as a proposed statewide audio, data and video teleconferencing network to support economic development. These are just the kinds of applications that will serve the enterprises and individuals located here and help to ensure economic prosperity for the Arizona community, expand the region's global competitive advantage, enable continued educational advancement and support an enhanced quality of life.

The State of Arizona therefore must take a leadership role and be a supporting partner of communities and enterprises in identifying and implementing strategies to enable the development, adoption and use of advanced networked applications throughout the state. This will involve:

- Considerable public-private cooperation at various levels,
- The availability of a technology literate workforce, and
- A versatile wide-ranging high-capacity telecommunications infrastructure.