

## **Instant Access, FSU will work on EMP attack shield**

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FROSTBURG — Instant Access Networks LLC, has received \$70,000 from the Maryland Technology Development Corporation's Maryland Technology Transfer Fund. The Cumberland-area company will work with Frostburg State University to develop technology that will protect critical infrastructure from electromagnetic pulse attack.

"TEDCO is happy to provide Instant Access Networks with the important seed funding they need in order to develop their shielding systems that will offer critical infrastructure protection from electromagnetic interference," said John Wasilisin, vice president and chief operating officer at TEDCO.

The Public Technology Institute, a national association of local governments, will facilitate the gathering of user requirements from a number of their member organizations with mission critical facilities. In turn, Instant Access will use this information to develop mass-produced fixed or mobile EMP protected rooms in categories that will meet those needs.

The rooms can provide protection for a variety of computing or communications equipment supporting applications ranging from a mobile command center to a back-up data center. The pilot will enable engineers to assess the range of equipment needing protection along with its accompanying power and air conditioning.

According to PTI executive director Alan Shark, "This project impacts a number of key interest areas of PTI members who are active in information technology and telecommunications, public safety and homeland security, energy, transportation and the environment."

Instant Access President Charles Manto said, "IAN also looks forward to working with PTI to help participating local governments write funding proposals so that they may purchase the EMP protected facilities that they need."

FSU will provide a number of support activities, including work to develop alternative energy elements to power these EMP-protected facilities. FSU and Instant Access will participate in the Maryland Association of Counties annual summer conference in Ocean City this week, where they will discuss the pilot project, as well as FSU's renewable energy symposium planned for Sept. 14-15.

Joseph Hoffman, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, called the pilot project and its relationship to other FSU activities "as an example of the cross-disciplinary activities of FSU science and engineering departments that support local business."

Local government or business units with mission-critical facilities in need of protection from electromagnetic pulse may participate in the pilot project free of charge by contacting Robin Frazier, vice president of Intergovernmental Affairs at (443) 867-6807 or e-mailing her at [rfrazier@stop-EMP.com](mailto:rfrazier@stop-EMP.com). More information about the pilot is available at [www.safe9-1-1.com](http://www.safe9-1-1.com)