

- Pegasus Networks, a private network linked into the international Australian Environment Research Information Net (ERIN). Schools can form sub-networks within the system;
- CompuServe Pacific, an international on-line information and communications service available throughout Australia and New Zealand; and
- Fidonet a freenet used by schools and teachers, each node run by volunteer, provides access to AARNET.

Videoconferencing

As of March 1993, 20 of Australia's 35 publicly funded universities had videoconferencing facilities at 41 sites and over 20 sites were operational in the TAFE sector. 13 of the remaining universities had plans to install such facilities and the number of sites could increase to 80-100 over the next few years (Latchem, C. et al, 1993). Three types of codec are in use, Picturetel (75%), CLI Rembrandt (20%), and GPT H120 (5%).

Videoconferencing in Australia was fueled by a A\$3.3 million grant for the establishment of facilities at 8 universities in 1990-1991. Costs per site for equipment are about A\$95,000.

2.6 Potential Customers

2.6.1 Overview

Australia is an expanding market for the learning industry. It is undergoing rapid modernisation. Recent initiatives in open learning have stimulated an uptake in the use of electronic delivery systems, audio and videoconferencing and new media in all sectors.

Major customers have emerged with the Government's Open Learning Initiative, including Open Learning Australia which is an independent company managing a national post-secondary program, supported by broadcast television