

LANL CENTER FOR INFORMATION SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (IS&T) DRAFT CHARTER
February 4, 2008

Mission:

The mission of the Center for Information Science and Technology (IS&T) is to enhance LANL's capabilities in IS&T by

- fostering science, technology and engineering to address LANL, DOE, and national IS&T needs
- coordinating laboratory-wide IS&T efforts and aligning them with future needs
- positioning LANL to compete in larger market for funding in this important and growing area

Center Roles:

The Center will provide a connection to program management for capability needs, and provide IS&T integration and support for mission-critical centers and activities such as MaRIE, and the new Biosecurity and Energy Security Centers. It will work to eliminate existing stovepipes and duplication of efforts in IS&T research and development. The Center will also help to coalesce and strengthen nascent IS&T capabilities, as well as to leverage existing, mature capabilities. It will take part in communicating IS&T activities both internally and externally. The center will advise laboratory management on investment strategies where IS&T is concerned.

In addition to exploiting the synergy between CS/Math for HPC and CS/Math for IS&T, the Center will raise visibility of IS&T as a technical discipline at LANL. It will provide centralized shared resources - instruments to enable new capability and enhance scientific creativity. The Center will connect to external organizations for general IS&T capability and work with Institutes/STB to recruit technical staff, students, postdocs, and visitors. It will interface external sponsors through marketing and outreach activities, including sponsoring workshops, conferences, seminars and summer schools.

Center Organization and Funding:

The Center for Information Science and Technology will have a Director and an Advisory Board consisting of internal and external members. The Center will be governed by a Board of Directors consisting of LANL senior management. An External Advisory Board will consist of IS&T experts from government laboratories, industry and academia. Funding for the Center will include partial support for the Center Director, and administrative staff, as well as support for program and capability development. The Center Director will leverage AD-TSC and PAD-STE planning and communication resources.

Relationship to Line and Program Management:

The Center will work with LANL program management to create opportunities for IS&T funding and with LANL line management to facilitate the execution of IS&T projects. The Center will directly fund some program development activities in IS&T and will work with LANL line management to recommend areas suitable for strategic LDRD funding.

Scientific Thrusts:

The Center will initially focus on 3-4 particular thrust areas well aligned with existing programs and that provide paths to the future. Specific thrusts will be selected by the Board of Directors. Projects would strictly terminate after a pre-determined period after which they would be expected to transfer into programmatic funding, preferably newly attracted. There will be annual reviews of the Center's activities from an external committee.

Metrics for Success:

Success will be quantified by (1) the infusion of new projects to LANL which require a large IS&T component and through an increased funding in IS&T across the laboratory, (2) an enhanced external reputation for LANL in IS&T, (3) the recruiting of new staff, students, and postdocs, and (4) the solution of important / high-visibility problems.