

Report of the LTER Technology Committee, Spring 2006

John Vande Castle, Committee Chair

The LTER Technology Committee was first formed as a standing committee by approval of the Coordinating Committee in the fall of 1998. The committee consists of one representative from each of the 26 LTER sites. The Committee and subsets of the committee have met formally twice since this time to review technology developments and provide recommendations for the LTER Network to pursue. This information is available on the LTER Technology web page: <http://www.lternet.edu/technology/>.

The LTER Technology Committee continues to be active in tasks related to LTER Planning Grant activities, particularly related to Network Information System development and Cyberinfrastructure. Many of the Technology Committee members are also part of the NISAC, IM or CI-team committees.

There has been interest by the committee to hold a meeting in order to perform a technology assessment of LTER. This is one critical area of information that has not been covered well by the current Network planning activities. An assessment has been done for the cyberinfrastructure components, but there is a real gap in knowing what type of technology is already in place across the LTER Network. A focus would be in sensor technologies, new experimental protocols, techniques, and related scientific infrastructure. The Technology Committee could assess what type of new technology has been implemented by the LTER sites, document what is there, and help spread successful tools across the Network. The committee could also develop a survey to quantify what type of new technologies are in place and what are needed by the LTER Network. The Technology Committee is not funded for meetings, but would like to plan for such an assessment in the near future.