

HEA

About HEA

The Higher Education Authority is the statutory planning and development body for higher education and research in Ireland.
www.heai.ie

Need

HEA required a review of the infrastructure and organizations involved in delivering ICT services to universities and Institutes of Technology, to ensure the right services platform was in place for the future.

Solution

SONAS Innovation undertook a review of technology in the third level education context, consulting with Universities and NREN organisations in various countries, and produced a written report outlining recommended changes to the current structure. These included:

- ***Establishing a programme to upgrade and integrate the current NREN needs to be put in place.***
- ***Creating new partnerships with research and commercial entities need to be established.***
- outsourcing services and facilities that could be more efficiently provided by commercial providers, to allow the NREN operator to focus on core competencies

Outcome

A comprehensive report was published with recommendations “The Future of research and Education Networking in Ireland” in September 2003.

The change process for the organisations involved immediately was undertaken with reinvigorated Government support and the recommendations have been integrated with other Education Policies (e.g. Broadband for schools). The National Research and Educational Network (NREN) backbone is being extended to be upgraded for all third level institutions and to include all schools. The project increased NREN economic significance.

<http://www.heai.ie/index.cfm/page/publications/category/143/section/details/id/436> .