Report to World Bank

April 21, 2011

Ankabut is the United Arab Emirates' National Research and Education Network (NREN). It offers educational and research networks connectivity to other education networks around the world.

In addition to connecting higher education institutions, Ankabut can connect schools and public institutions across the UAE.

Ankabut also co-operates on a national, GCC, regional and international arena representing the UAE in conferences, exhibitions and forums.

Mission of Ankabut

- Provide Leading Edge Network Infrastructure to centres of Learning and Research within the UAE to foster collaboration and cooperation

- Provide for connectivity with peers at the international level to effectively participate and collaborate in research activities.

Vision of Ankabut

Create an opportunity for the UAE to be a leader in Education and Research.
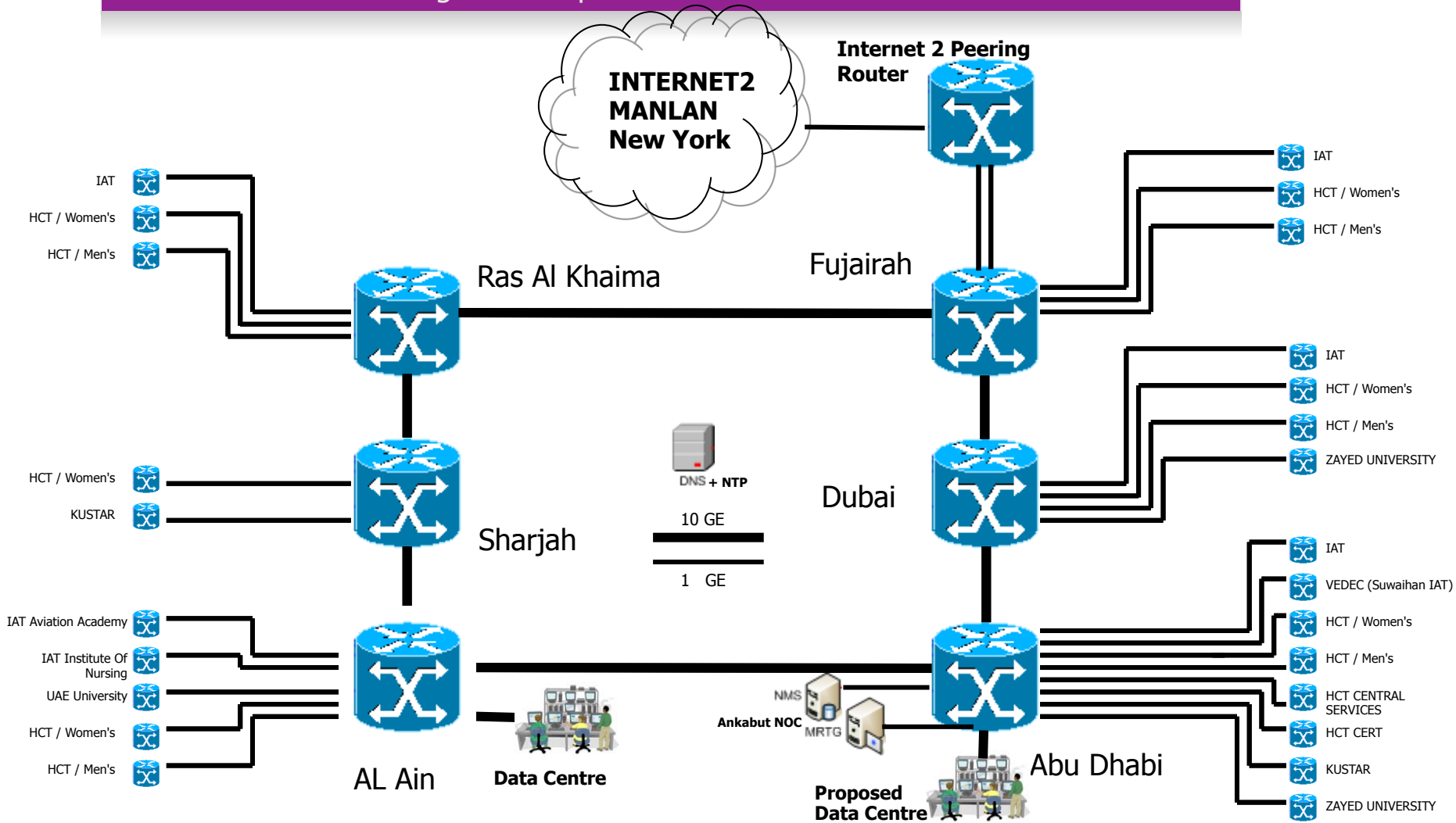
Member Eligibility

- All higher education institutions: federal, city, knowledge villages and private

- Research and development institutions

- K-12 schools

- Museums

- Zoos

- Public Libraries

- Health services and centres

Funding of the Project

- Ankabut Project in April 2009 given a 5 year grant from ICT Fund and Khalifa University

- No institutional fees for eligible institutions in 2009-2011

- User institutions is projected to begin paying a percentage of connection fees starting 2012

Ankabut National Network

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- Khalifa University 2 campuses
- Institute of Applied Technology 6 campuses
- Higher College of Technology 13 campuses

campuses
- United Arab Emirates University
- American University of Dubai

- Zayed University 2

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- Rochester Institute of Technology Dubai
- New York University Abu Dhabi
- Masdar Institute
- American University of Sharjah
- Abu-Dhabi University
- The Petroleum Institute
- Institute of Applied Technology * 3 new campuses
- Higher College of Technology 3 remote campuses

- Zayed University 2 new campuses
- Abu Dhabi Vocational Education and Training Institute *9
- ALHOSN University
- EPFL

- **Active Research**
  - **Ankabut encourages research among the UAE community through the use of the network & Quarterly Users' Forum which provides networking opportunities and international speakers who advocate research**

- **Dynamic Learning**
  - **UAE educators can use the network to break down the barrier of distance and open collaborative learning through out the UAE & the world through HD video conferencing & other tools**

- **Collaboration**
    - **The UAE academic & research community can collaborate & connect among themselves and the global community**

- **Innovation**
    - **The development of UAE & international test beds & pilot services that result in new product & services**

- **Economic**
    - **The benefit of collective buying power to member institutions by procuring networks & services on a national basis.**

Ankabut Grid Computing Initiative

Ankabut network has participated in the Joint EUMEDGRID-Support/ EPIKH School for Computing Grids.

Ankabut has built up a seed system for the National Grid initiative in the UAE. Ankabut can dispatch jobs on to the world's grid system using the G-lite middleware.

The Grid Site in Abu Dhabi is the first grid site ever installed in the GCC as part of the EUMEDGRID-Support e-Infrastructure.

To facilitate the grid process and security measures needed to enable and secure the technology. Ankabut Network is now registered as an official Registration Authority to the INFN Certification Authority in the UAE for the Grid initiative.

Interest is shown by a number of institutions

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