

# Okaloosa EDC gets \$350,000 for 'Internet on steroids'

LambdaRail can target IT, research companies and the military, says Larry Sassano

[Thomas J. Monigan](#)

Friday March 28th, 2008

Larry Sassano and the Economic Development Council of Okaloosa County got the good news they had been waiting to hear Friday.

Gov. Charlie Crist's office informed the EDC that it had been awarded a \$350,000 grant for a project known as "Emerald Coast Technology and Research Center LambdaRail Connectivity."

LambdaRail has been referred to as "the Internet on steroids." It involves:

- A fiber optic infrastructure to deliver data and communication networks along Interstate-10 and down into Okaloosa County.
- It's owned and operated by United States universities, including the University of West Florida.
- It features ultra-high bandwidth and capacity.
- It will serve educational, research and economic development efforts.
- It has two levels: A national backbone network that links regional optical networks.

"This is a kind of a marketing tool for us and it involves being able to target certain industry sectors," Sassano said. "We're talking about IT and research companies and the military. This is a great tool in our toolbox."

Daily News Business Editor Thomas J. Monigan can be reached at 863-1111, Ext. 1438.