Tri-county alliance markets high tech action on website

BY CANDICE VENTRA

The tri-county group that markets Internet and high tech development for the area is intensifying its outreach this month by promoting industry activities.

InternetCoast spokeswoman Allison Kimberly Hilt stresses the importance of networking as part of the group's mission to promote South Florida as a hub of high tech firms and expertise to the rest of the world. The alliance, formed in April by the economic development agencies in Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties, works to recruit, expand and retain high tech businesses.

The organization's web site, InternetCoast.com, features high-tech-related activities for South Florida every month. The site also has been conducting a survey in conjunction with South Florida's colleges that will help determine the curriculum needs for students to better staff the area's high tech industries after graduation.

New this month, the Florida International University College of Business Administration is sponsoring a "NetBiz Challenge 2001" e-business plan competition for the region. Challenge teams may consist of up to five members, which must include at least two graduate students enrolled at a Florida college or university. Participants will compete for the best e-business plan, organizers say.

Interested individuals may pick up an information and application kit starting Oct. 16 from the FIU College of Business Administration at 11200 SW Eighth St. Grand Prize and runnerup teams will be awarded cash prizes.

Also, InterNAP Network Services presents "Weathering the Internet Storm," from 12:30-2:30 p.m. Oct. 19 in the Doral Resort & Spa in Miami.

The session will feature Internet discussions from industry professionals who represent companies such as Sportline.com, Salutia.com and Intelliswitch.

With Focus Interactive magazine and AT&T, InternetCoast will sponsor the Technology Summit of the Americas 2000 Oct. 25-28.

The summit will take place in four venues—Oct. 25 at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton; Oct. 26 at Nova University in Davie; Oct. 27 at Miami-Dade Community College's Wolfson Campus and Oct. 28 in the Wyndham Miami Beach.

Organizers say the summit is for those looking to start a business who need venture capital or those who are just expanding a business for the Internet.

Details: NetBiz Challenge 2001, fiu.edu; InterNAP Network Services, (305) 828-6699; Annual Technology Summit of the Americas 2000, RSVP by e-mail at office@ifocus mag.com.