MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
Sloan School of Management

15.578 Global Information Systems:
Communications & Connectivity Among Information Systems
Spring 2002

TERM PROJECT

TEAM MEMBERS LIST DUE: Lecture #7
PROPOSAL DUE: Lecture #12
TERM PROJECT DUE: Lecture #23

Your 15.578 term project is intended to give you the opportunity to pursue the ideas discussed in class in more depth. The term project may be done individually or in groups of up to 3 people. There are many forms that it can take. Some examples are:

1. Case Study: A case study can be written regarding an organization faced with Connectivity issues (e.g., like J&J, FXX). The case should provide some generalizable concepts, drawing from frameworks used in 15.578 (e.g., interlinked value chains, levels of business transformation, etc.)

2. Comparative Analysis: There are many strategic, physical, logical, and organizational connectivity concepts being developed. A comparative analysis of 2 or more approaches could be interesting (e.g., homogenous vs heterogeneous distributed database systems; FDDI vs Gigabit Ethernet, XML and Web Services, etc.)

3. Computer Project: If you wish, you can participate in the Computer Project being done by 15.565 students. If so, please let the TA know since there are multiple parts to this assignment – some starting very soon.

Term project proposal: Your term project proposal should be brief (about one page in length) but be sufficiently specific so that the term project goals and any related issues (such as project risks) are clearly stated. Be sure to: (1) give a **name to your project** and (2) **list the group members**. We recommend that you turn in your proposal early to get feedback and approval.

Term project: In general, anything that relates to the topics of 15.578 is likely to be a viable term project. There is no set length to the term project since it will depend upon the topic you pick. In previous terms, typical lengths were 10-20 pages double-spaced. Every term project should address strategic, technical, and organizational issues – though not necessarily equal emphasis since this would depend upon topic.

Term project presentation: As part of your term project assignment, you are to prepare a brief 10-15 minute presentation (probably 4-5 slides) to be turned in as an Appendix to your report. A few representative projects will be selected (by May 14th) to give their presentation on May 16th.

SAMPLE TERM PROJECTS (from previous terms)

"LAN for CAES Advanced Study Program"   "Inter-Org Systems in a Japanese Auto Company"
"Engineering Change Process at McDonnell"   "Knowledge Management"
"Data Communications for Comm. Of Massachusetts"   "Virtual Private Networks"
"Connectivity Issues in the Dry Cleaning Industry"   "Communications & connectivity at Ford"
"IT Strategy for an Israel-based High-Tech Firm"   "Microsoft's digital nervous system"
"Strategic Implications of EDI"   "Bringing broadband to your neighborhood"
"Transborder Data Flow"   "ERP and connectivity"
"Comm Technology at Boston Stock Exchange"   "The Automotive Network Exchange"
"Connectivity at Goldman Sachs & Co."   "How the Internet may change the music industry"
"Use of Fiber Optics in Local Area Networks"   "Data warehouse as integration tool for retail banks"