

EDSConnections

## Trends

TOPICS BEHIND THE NEWS

## A wired world

Need more evidence of the pervasive use of computers in homes and businesses? Read on:

- Once 1995's numbers are in, experts believe computer sales will outstrip television set sales for the second straight year.
- *The Economist* magazine estimates that consumers bought 15 million PCs for use in their homes last year, making PC home sales the fastest-growing segment of the PC market.
- Surveys estimate that 30 million people worldwide are connected to the Internet;

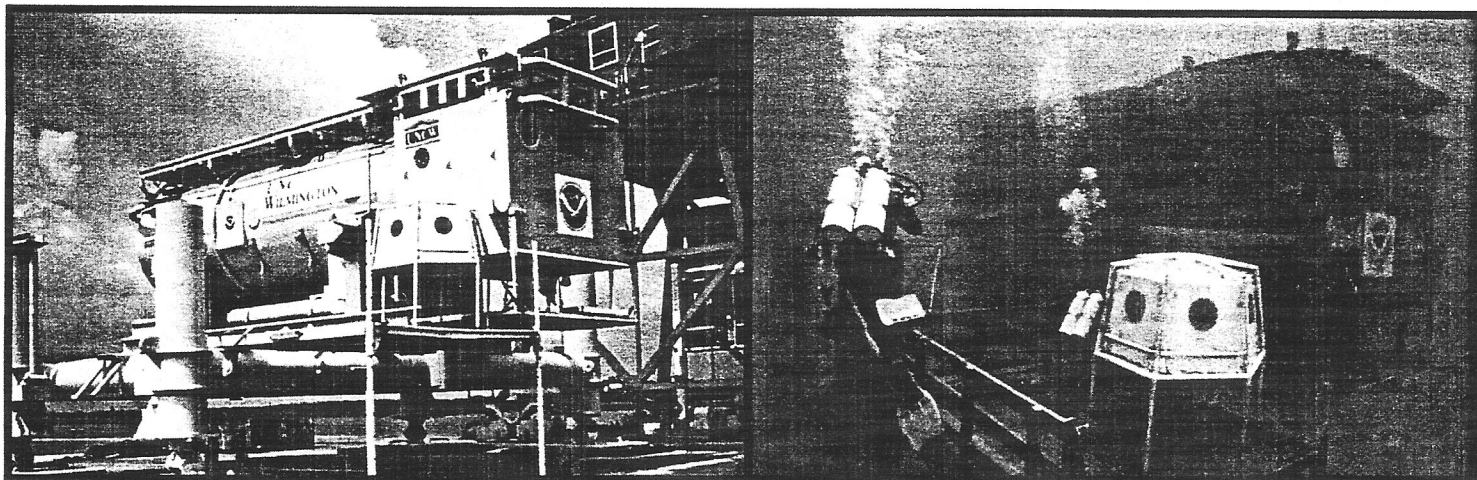
the number is growing by about 10 percent per month.

- During a three-month period last year, the number of companies using the Internet for business doubled to 50,000.
- Analysts expect worldwide business transactions on the Internet to approach \$500 million this year.
- The market research firm Killen & Associates expects that \$300 billion worth of goods and services will be traded over the Internet in the year 2000.

## SWIMMING THE NET

# World's first underwater Web site launches JASON on the Internet

Series of high-tech connections amid South Florida coral reefs links students and researchers worldwide



AQUARIUS, the JASON Project's underwater research station (dry-docked at left and submerged at right), will transmit live images of an unexplored coral reef off Florida's south coast to thousands of Internet viewers and students at North American interactive network sites. The seventh annual JASON Project is studying the effects of climatic changes on the reef's ecosystem and the habits of crocodiles in the Everglades. EDS is the project's technology provider and founding sponsor.

KEYLARGO, Fla. — The JASON Project will pull Internet users through a "virtual porthole" this month with the world's first underwater Web site.

EDS technologists have woven a series of high-tech links amid the ancient coral reefs off the South Florida coast. In March, they installed a Web server aboard the AQUARIUS, an underwater scientific research station, linking it from the ocean floor to a support barge on the Florida Bay.

Starting April 15, scientists and student Argonauts will spend nearly two weeks in the AQUARIUS, investigating the effects of climatic changes on the reef environment and relaying their findings to Internet users who visit the AQUARIUS site on the World Wide Web.

## Sweeping reach

Live JASON broadcasts will feed to the Internet at the same time they are relayed to 30 Primary Interactive Network Sites (PINS) across North America. Students and other PINS visitors will be able to see and ask questions of researchers at JASON's various research stations throughout South Florida. Researchers — including thousands of teachers and millions of students — will study the ever-changing life at the edge of the ocean, including the ecosystems of a never-before-explored coral reef and the habits of crocodiles in the Everglades.

"The Internet porthole will be continually updated from color video cameras inside and outside AQUARIUS, making JASON available to millions of 'JASONauts' of all ages around the

world," said Bill Mapp, assistant director of Electronic Marketing, who created JASON's underwater cybercasts. "We're letting people experience what EDS can do."

JASON began in 1989 when EDS helped start the JASON Foundation for Education. The goal: Use innovative technology to spark students' enthusiasm for science. Since its inception, JASON has reached more than 30 million students, and it will continue to reach millions through its year-round curriculum and Internet activity.

## Managing complexity

EDS' role is to help write the expedition curriculum; design and build PINS; manage voice, data and video transmission between expedition sites and PINS worldwide; and integrate

the disparate expedition technologies into a massive global network.

"Nothing matches JASON for demonstrating EDS' ability to tailor unique solutions to specific business problems, no matter what the situation," said Diane Spradlin, EDS Community Affairs director. "Customers, prospects and community leaders are consistently impressed with EDS based on the insight we demonstrate through the JASON project."

For more information about the JASON project, call EDS Community Affairs at (+1) (214) 605-6824 [8-835]. The EDS JASON site is available year-round on the World Wide Web at <http://www.eds.com/jason>. The AQUARIUS Web site will be available April 15-26 at <http://aquarius.eds.com>.

by Anne Ely Young