

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA
AT LAFAYETTE

STEP Committee

Technology Fee Application

Softball Wireless Access Point Deployment
Title

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Name of Submitter
(Staff or Faculty only)

Network Services
Organization

Title: Softball Wireless AP Deployment Date: 11 Jul 2017
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ABSTRACT (250 words or less):

The University has made great strides over the past six years in the deployment of the UL-WiFi wireless. We have deployed wireless to all academic buildings, the dorms, the Quad, sporting venues, and multiple outdoor areas. This STEP grant would address wireless deficiencies in Lamson Park. Lamson Park houses the UL Lafayette Softball Team and has been voted the No. 1 NCAA Division I college softball park in the nation in a nationwide poll conducted by flosoftball.com. Additionally, next generation wireless needs exist in the stadium and supporting buildings. This STEP grant would allow for the deployment of indoor and outdoor wireless access points to support wireless coverage and mobile services in the stadium area, press boxes, coaching offices, training areas, and concourse/concession level.

The park appeals to local Ragin Cajun fans, as well as visiting softball fans. ESPN Amanda Scarborough made the following comment after the 2016 NCAA Regional at Lamson Park: “So cool to see fan support of this magnitude for our sport. Dream to play in front of a crowd like this.” Coach Lotief is appreciative of fan support, in fact, the team has a tradition; he had this to say, “When we break a huddle and say ‘Us’, it is to remind everyone that our fans, and this community, are the true driving force and inspiration behind what we are able to build and achieve together.”

Proposal

a. Purpose of grant and impact

Need:

Louisiana is one of only 9 schools at the NCAA Division I level to appear in each NCAA Softball Tournament since the year 2000. The list includes: Alabama, Arizona, Florida State, Michigan, Notre Dame, Oklahoma, UCLA and Washington. There is an increasing need for technology in the all areas of the campus, especially sports venues. Equipping Lamson Park with next gen wireless capability will allow faculty, staff, students, players, fans, visiting teams, and press to be productive regardless of their physical location within the stadium.

The stadium club is used by the student athletes of the UL softball team as a study and homework area, wireless connectivity would facilitate access to resources in support of their education. Additionally, wireless connectivity in the office areas and hitting facility would assist the coaches in the day to day operations of the softball program, scouting opponents, live capture and analysis of hitting practices. Wireless in the stadium area would allow fans to “check-in” on different social media apps which in turn provides greater exposure for the softball program. Concourse level wireless would allow concessions to add mobile ordering to existing services, which would benefit fans by allowing them to order and pay via their mobile phone while seated in the stands. The ease and convenience of mobile ticketing is a feature the softball program has been unable to provide its fan base, with improved wireless this feature not only enhances the fan experience, but is environmentally contentious.

UL-Lafayette’s softball program has hosted the following events at Lamson Park from 1990 – 2015:

- 1990 - NCAA Regional
- 1991 - NCAA Regional
- 1992 - NCAA Regional
- 1994 - NCAA Regional
- 1995 - NCAA Regional
- 1996 - NCAA Regional
- 1997 - NCAA Regional
- 2000 - Sun Belt Tournament
- 2002 - NCAA Regional
- 2004 - Sun Belt Tournament
- 2011 - Sun Belt Tournament
- 2012 - NCAA Regional
- 2014 - Sun Belt Tournament
- 2014 - NCAA Regional
- 2014 - NCAA Super Regional
- 2015 - NCAA Regional

The softball program has an extremely successful history with multiple levels of accomplishments on the local and national stages:

- 6 - Women's College World Series appearances
- 7 - NCAA Super Regional appearances in past 10 seasons (2008-17)
- 15 - Sun Belt Conference championships in 17 years since competition began in 2001
- 19 - consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances
- 27 - NCAA Tournament appearances (8th most in NCAA history) in the past 28 seasons (1990-present)
- 53 - All-American selections in program history
- 73 - NCAA Tournament victories (12th most in NCAA history)
- 159 - All-Conference selections in Ragin' Cajuns Softball history
- Featured in NCAA.com story "7 stadiums you need to visit"
- Season ticket sales have eclipsed the 1,000-mark each of the past two seasons (2016, 2017). In 2017, a record-breaking 1,036 season tickets were sold.
- Since the reconfiguration of the facility – beginning with the 2012 season – attendance at Lamson Park has been ranked Top 10 in the NCAA rankings four times, including each of the previous three seasons (2014-16).
- New attendance records at Lamson Park have been established each of the past two seasons. In 2016, the total attendance exceeded 30,000 for the first time (31,261 actual) and the average attendance was above 1,500 for the first time (1,736 actual). In the 2017 season those marks were topped as the Ragin' Cajuns drew 43,878 fans over 22 playing dates for a new-record average of 1,994.
- Lamson Park has been the host site of an NCAA Regional tournament four times in the past six seasons (2012, 2014, 2015, and 2016). The NCAA Regional is the opening round of NCAA Division I college softball's postseason tournament that culminates with the Women's College World Series in Oklahoma City.
- In conjunction with the NCAA Regional Tournaments, television crews from ESPN plus radio crews and media from schools provide coverage of the games from Lamson Park.
- Each February, the Ragin' Cajuns Softball program hosts at minimum two (2) tournaments (there were 3 in 2017) that feature at least three visiting schools and their fans.
- For the last four seasons (2014-17), the Ragin' Cajuns have hosted at least one Top 25 team at Lamson Park during regular season play (No. 13 Oklahoma in 2014, No. 14 Baylor in 2015, No. 5 Oregon in 2016 and No. 4 Alabama in 2017). Two-time national champion Florida, the No. 1 national seed in the 2017 NCAA Softball Tournament, is scheduled to visit Lamson Park in the 2018 season.

Impact:

The UL Softball team has defeated many Top 25 ranked teams, such as Baylor, Alabama, Texas A&M, LSU, Arizona State. Additionally, the team has led the Sunbelt Conference in attendance every year since UL joined in 2000. Louisiana is

one of only 9 schools at the NCAA Division I level to appear in each NCAA Softball Tournament since the year 2000. The list includes: Alabama, Arizona, Florida State, Michigan, Notre Dame, Oklahoma, UCLA and Washington.

In 31 seasons, the UL Softball team has a record of 718-104-1 which equates to an 87% win percentage. A team of this caliber with the No. 1 ranked stadium in the nation deserves a stadium of the highest caliber with technology to support televised and live streaming of softball games by ESPN.

b. Projected lifetime of enhancement

There is no lifetime to this enhancement; however, the hardware will have a lifespan associated with it. The hardware will serve the University community for an estimated three to five year useful life.

c. Person(s) responsible for

i. Implementation

Existing IMN personnel will be responsible for implementation of Aruba wireless access points into existing wireless controllers.

ii. Installation

Existing IMN personnel will partner with Detel to install all equipment, supplies, and data cable runs.

iii. Maintenance

Existing IMN personnel will ensure updates to the hardware's firmware are installed in a timely fashion.

iv. Operation

IMN will train department staff to ensure they are capable of monitoring the wireless controllers and perform troubleshooting and administrative operations.

v. Training (with qualifications)

Existing IMN personnel will be responsible for any training of department personnel. No technical qualifications are necessary.

Budget Proposal

1.	Equipment (Wireless access points, network PoE switches)	\$53,029.58
2.	Software (AP Licenses)	\$7,966.04
3.	Supplies (Fiber and Ethernet connectors, fiber and Ethernet cables, back-up power supply, network racks, patch panels, rack organizers)	\$14,680.00
4.	Maintenance	\$0.00
5.	Personnel	\$0.00
6.	Other (Data cable runs)	\$8,910.00

TOTAL: **\$84,585.62**