

## Video Technology and Related Activities

Due to anticipated demand for video technology in support of distance learning, or "distance education" programs in state institutions of higher learning, the Commission on Higher Education, with the cooperation of the Information Technology Planning Office of the State Budget and Control Board, has determined to undertake a study of all current postsecondary distance learning programs and associated resources, and a comprehensive assessment of needs for future programs of this type. The purpose of this study is to identify the current and future resource requirements of such programs, so that such resources may be secured and allocated in a timely, coordinated, and cost-effective manner that makes optimal use of common state facilities and avoids undue duplication of facilities, programs, and services.

All state-supported, post-secondary educational institutions will be asked to participate in this study, so that the state may thereby make provisions for each institution's respective needs. Until such time as this study is complete, the Commission asks that all institutions suspend acquisition of new technological resources to support distance learning programs. The Information Technology Planning Office, operating under a legislative mandate to monitor and approve or defer all new acquisitions of video and telecommunications resources, will suspend approval of acquisitions of technology for distance learning purposes until this study is complete and a state plan guiding further application of such resources is in place.

It is expected that this moratorium may be relaxed by fourth quarter FY 1989-90, since a comprehensive, distance education plan will have been developed and will be in place by that time. Institutions for which this request presents undue hardship or potential loss of external funding should bring these difficulties to the attention of the Commission immediately.