Proposed Use of Quarknet Cosmic Ray Detector for the classroom

This is my first year of involvement with Quarknet and SCIPP and the week I spent in Santa Cruz was primarily a great exercise in trouble shooting as only one of the three detectors "worked". Whereas I got an introduction to the theory and logistics of operation (as well as fascinating physics lectures from the faculty) there was no time to do a muon lifetime study which would be how I would use a detector at my school - Crystal Springs Uplands in Hillsborough, CA.

It's clear that I could not mainstream a detector into my regular teaching because the learning and frustration curves are way too steep for introductory physics students. It would be very appropriate for my school's Cutting Edge Science Club, however.

What I would like to do is solicit school funding to buy a detector from Quarknet during the next funding cycle which will be in May, 2009. At that point I would need a refresher course and most importantly a manual to work from so I could start using the detector in the fall of 2009.