



COMPUTER VISIONARIES COMING TO VANCOUVER

VANCOUVER, BC (March 15, 2004) – **BCNET** (www.bc.net), a non-profit society for the development of advanced networks within the province, announced today that **Doug Engelbart**, **Luis Rodriguez-Roselló** and **Alan Blatecky** have been confirmed as keynote speakers for this year's conference to be held on April 27 and 28, 2004 at the Simon Fraser University Conference Centre in downtown Vancouver, British Columbia. **Engelbart**, who graced the pages of *Wired* magazine earlier this year has been described as a computer visionary, responsible for inventing the computer mouse and for conceptualizing modern day computing. **Rodriguez-Roselló** is the Director of Emerging Technologies and Infrastructure Applications at the **European Union**, Directorate General Information Society. **Blatecky** is currently the Executive Director at the **San Diego Supercomputer Center**.

All three keynotes will be coming to Vancouver to share their computing visions for this year's 4th Annual Advanced Networks Conference. **WestGrid** and **Netera Alliance** are joining **BCNET** to host this year's event, helping to make it the largest grid computing and distributed applications conference in western Canada.

"The conference is our flagship event for the year," says **Michael Hrybyk**, **President and CEO of BCNET**. *"It features new ideas in computer networking that help us better position the Society and all our Members, Affiliates and Partners for the road ahead."*

"This is a tremendous opportunity for researchers from across BC, Alberta and Canada to understand the new e-research opportunities that are enabled by information technology and to get involved in shaping our collective future," says **Ken Hewitt**, **Chief Administrative Officer for WestGrid and President of Netera Alliance**.

Other speakers include: **Bob deWit**, Commercialization and Dissemination of Early Stage Research Results; **Brian Gaines**, The Research Workplace of the Future; **Michael Corcoran**, Lessons for Advanced Networks from the GIG-BE Project; **Paul Roche**, The Faulkes Telescope Project; and **Randy Smith**, Multimedia at General Motors.

The two-day event will focus on advanced networks with sessions on nanotechnology, astronomy and astrophysics, particle physics, oceanography, genomics, collaboration/visualization, distributed learning, security, and network research. In addition, there will be a panel on Grid for Kids and a spotlight presentation on the winners of BCNET's Coolest Applications Contest.

The Program Committee for the conference helped with its organization and with attracting the stellar list of speakers. Members include: **Dr. Richard Smith** (Chair), SFU; **Paul Amodeo**, Dynavar Networking; **Dennis Crabtree**, NRC/Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics; **Tim Devlin**, BCNET; **Dr. George Eisler**, BC Academic Health Council; **Dr. Brian Fisher**, UBC; **Michael Hrybyk**, BCNET; **Mary Anne Moser**, Netera Alliance, WestGrid and iCORE; **Dr. Randall Sobie**, Institute of Particle Physics of Canada at UVIC; **Gren Patey**, UBC and WestGrid, and **John Webb**, Ministry of Management Services.

The conference is made possible with the generous support of its sponsors. **Platinum sponsors** for this year's event include: the **Ministry of Management Services**, **Western Economic Diversification** and **iCORE**. Gold sponsors include: Nortel Networks and IBM. C3 and SGI are this year's Silver sponsors while Bronze sponsors include: NRC/Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics, Bell, Harbour.com and CANARIE.

BCNET

Suite 3200 – SFU Harbour Centre
515 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, BC, Canada V6B 5K3
Phone: 604.822.1348 Fax: 604.822.9887
www.bc.net ~ info@bc.net



The Advanced Networks Conference is open to the public. The conference fee is \$225, which includes access to all presentations during the two days, light breakfast and lunch each day, entry to the gala reception on the 27th and an invitation to the reception hosted by WestGrid at the end of the conference on the 28th of April 2004.

About BCNET

BCNET (www.bc.net) is a non-profit society supporting and promoting advanced networks for the province's research and education communities. The organization serves BC's academic, research and development institutions, government bodies, community organizations and industry groups. BCNET is the province's foremost leader in advanced network technology and is leading the way for enhancing education and research capabilities over the Internet. BCNET is supported by the provincial and federal governments as well as by its regional Member institutions.

About Netera Alliance

Netera Alliance (www.netera.ca) is a non-profit organization responsible for development of the research information infrastructure in Alberta, including Alberta's research network. It represents Alberta's universities, colleges, research organizations and government and coordinates the build and management of the research network and connected resources. It provides support for research and innovation across all disciplines, without preference or partiality.

About WestGid

WestGrid (www.westgrid.ca) is a \$48 million project to purchase and install an innovative grid-enabled computing infrastructure across BC and Alberta. The facilities spanning the two provinces are connected by BCNet, NeteraNet and CANARIE and available to the general research community. The resources support data-intensive computations and collaborative research.

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