



## AARNet and NASA bring the classroom to life with an interactive, guided tour of the universe

AARNet demonstrates "GeoDome" inflatable high-definition 3D theatre for first time in Tasmania

Hobart, AUSTRALIA 21 September 2010

AARNet, Australia's Academic and Research Network, is partnering with NASA to bring students 3D tours of the universe within the GeoDome – an inflatable, immersive 3D theatre. The first Tasmanian event will take place at The Hutchins School in Sandy Bay from September 22-24. The event will be held in collaboration with neighbouring schools, St Michaels Collegiate and Fahan School.

The NASA GeoDome experience allows students to explore the known universe, via NASA's Digital Universe Atlas. Online gaming technologies will enable students to interact with space data and imagery from NASA and the global telescope network, creating an immersive learning experience. Students will have the opportunity to experience 1080-pixel high-definition video feeds through a fish-eye lens in real time. Technology and the curriculum AARNet is focused on bringing high speed broadband experiences to schools to revolutionise the 21st century curriculum. The GeoDome is a great example of how high speed broadband, emerging technologies and visualisation tools can enable students to access data from science and research organisations in Australia and across the globe.

Chris Hancock, CEO of AARNet, said, The possibilities that high speed networks such as AARNet bring to the education sector are endless and we are excited about what lies ahead with this technology. AARNet believes in supporting Australian students in their quest for knowledge and we are continually seeking new and innovative technologies to bring the curriculum to life. The GeoDome

The GeoDome provides AARNet with a unique environment in which to showcase educational content from its global partners. It utilises software and technologies found in online gaming to engage users and provide an interactive, immersive, visual-spatial experience. It can be set-up in less than 30 minutes and provides a fully enclosed, immersive theatre environment, making it ideal for a classroom of students. It enables students to navigate through, interact with and collaborate on high-definition images, video and presentations. Nick Cross, Manager of Education Outreach for AARNet, said, The GeoDome enables us to present complex concepts about the universe in an easy-to-understand, exciting visual context which benefits students of all ages and enriches the learning experience. For more information on GeoDome:

[www.geodome.info](http://www.geodome.info) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8z3u-9IMt-A> <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iEZNJ0guSkI>

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About AARNet AARNet

Pty Ltd (APL) is the company that operates Australia's Academic and Research Network (AARNet). It is a not-for-profit company limited by shares. The shareholders are 37 Australian universities and the CSIRO. AARNet provides high-capacity leading edge Internet services for the tertiary education and research sector communities and their research partners. AARNet serves more than one million end users who access the

network through local area networks at member institutions. For further information, please visit: [www.aarnet.edu.au](http://www.aarnet.edu.au). For further information, please contact: Almira Anthony Max Australia +61 2 9954 3492 [almira.anthony@maxaustralia.com.au](mailto:almira.anthony@maxaustralia.com.au) About the GeoDome The GeoDome immersive learning environment consists of an inflatable dome, digital projector, and interactive software. The network of GeoDome users includes NASA, NOAA, science centers, research universities, public schools, visualization labs, and more. The GeoDome was developed by leading immersive design firm The Elumenati ([www.elumenati.com](http://www.elumenati.com)). For further information, please visit: [www.geodome.info](http://www.geodome.info).