



## AARNET AND SOUTHERN CROSS CABLE NETWORKS EXTEND THEIR PARTNERSHIP TO PROVIDE A HIGH CAPACITY NETWORK FOR RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

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Sydney, AUSTRALIA 8 February 2010 Southern Cross Cable Networks (SCCN) has given Australias research and scientific community a boost by extending its sponsorship agreement with AARNet, Australias Academic and Research Network for the Southern Cross Trans-Pacific Optical Research Test bed (SXTransPORT). This was announced today at the opening ceremony of the 29th Asia Pacific Advanced Networking Consortium meeting in Sydney.

Under this agreement, the SXTransPORT will continue to provide dual 10 Gbps capacity circuits sponsored by SCCN to connect AARNet to National Research and Education Networks in North America for scientific, research and education traffic through until 2020. The SXTransPORT is an integral high capacity connection as it connects AARNet to Research and Education Networks around the world.

Mary Fleming, Business Development Director of AARNet said, The SXTransPORT has provided Australian researchers and scientists an unprecedented opportunity to collaborate in areas such as astronomy and science that have been of great significance to Australia and the international community. Some of these collaborative efforts simply would not have been possible without the SXTransPORT and the assistance of Southern Cross Cable Networks and we are so pleased to be able to assure its continuation for the next decade.

Ross Pfeffer, Director of Sales and Marketing at the SCCN said, SXTransPORT has placed Australia at the forefront of the worlds research and education by providing a high bandwidth corridor connecting Australia to the United States and the rest of the world. The Southern Cross Cable Networks is proud to be supporting Australias scientific and research endeavours.

Connecting Australia to the United States on the SXTransPORT ensures Australia can continue to play an integral role in collaborating with other Research and Education Networks around the world in major research programs such as the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) and the Large Hadron Collider.

Professor Geoffrey Taylor of the School of Physics at The University of Melbourne and leader of the Australian effort at CERNs Large Hadron Collider said, The University of Melbourne is actively involved in the Large Hadron Collider program and the 10 Gbps access point that connects us to AARNet and the SXTransPORT facilitates our collaboration with scientists and researchers in the United States, Asia and Europe allowing very large amounts of data to be transferred for analysis quickly.

Fleming added, AARNet is committed to developing one of the most advanced national research and education networks anywhere in the world, placing Australia on the forefront of the worlds research and scientific programs. We will continue to invest in our network to ensure there are no technological or cost barriers to our members who are constantly seeking to further Australias reputation in the worlds research community.

The first agreement for the SXTransPORT was signed between AARNet and SCCN on 31 December 2003.

About AARNetAARNet 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).

About Southern Cross Cable NetworkThe Southern Cross Cable Network provides the fastest, most direct, and most secure international bandwidth from Australia, New Zealand and Hawaii to the heart of the Internet in the USA.

Southern Cross is currently delivering 370 gigabit/s of fully protected bandwidth and has the potential as demand growth requires to increase to 1.2 Tbps using the existing 10 Gbps technology or 4.8 Tbps using 40 Gbps.

Media Contact:Gabriel WongMax Australia+61 2 9954 3492gabriel.wong@maxaustralia.com.au