



AARNet announces membership of Open Visual Communications Consortium

Sydney,

AUSTRALIA January 19, 2012 AARNet today announced that it has become the first research and education network to join the Open Visual Communications Consortium (OVCC). By participating in this forum AARNet will extend its leadership in the video collaboration and communications space, working with global partners to drive video interoperability across the communications environment.

The OVCC is

the first visual communications environment based on open standards, linking service provider networks globally. Members are working together to establish a multi-network, multi-vendor environment, delivering consistent, interoperable video experiences. This will provide greater flexibility for connecting research and education communities with industry and government sector between geographically dispersed user communities.

At a local

level, OVCC membership will allow AARNet to extend the scope of its telepresence and video conferencing services. By integrating with the OVCC services, AARNet can provide clients with access to an intelligent call routing infrastructure around the globe. Customers will be able to participate in conferences that are hosted on AARNet and connect with international partner networks enabling video conferencing to work seamlessly across multiple carriers.

AARNet is

proud to be the first research and education partner to join the OVCC, said Chris Hancock, Chief Executive Officer at AARNet. The growth of telepresence has historically been stifled by interoperability and connectivity challenges. However, by working with our OVCC partners we hope to remove the barriers to ubiquity and open the door to hassle free faster video collaboration with partners and customers.

AARNet has

been instrumental in leading the roll out of cloud based video conferencing, streaming and recording services in Australia through its National Video Conferencing Service. The organisation has strategically adopted multivendor platforms to enable endpoint-agnostic video services. Its operational proficiency makes AARNet well placed to advise on interoperability issues across national and international networks. OVCC membership will enable AARNet to extend the benefit of its expertise beyond the research and education community, providing specialist knowledge to wider consortium partners.

AARNet has

a rich background in developing and operating multi-vendor video environments. We are excited to be participating in the OVCC where we can draw upon this expertise and share insights with OVCC partners to drive advances in

interoperable visual communications product and service development around the globe, said James Sankar, AARNets Applications and Services Director.

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

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