



AARNet Backbone Allows Australian Students to Participate in World's Largest Videoconference

Megaconference 2007 to be held on November 8-9 with approximately 400 participants globally.

SYDNEY, Australia

— 8 November, 2007 — Australia's Academic and Research Network (AARNet) today announced several local universities and schools will be using the high-speed AARNet3 backbone to participate in the world's largest videoconference, Megaconference 2007, on November 8-9 AEDT. www.megaconference.org. www.aarnet.edu.au.

The twelve hour Megaconference begins tonight at 11:30pm local time. It is an annual global event designed to connect people everywhere on Earth, to further the use of videoconferencing in education and research and promote advances in videoconferencing technology.

Australian schools and universities participating in the Megaconference will connect via one of two AARNet Multipoint Control Units (MCUs). These hubs will provide participants with access to two-way, standard and high-definition which will allow users to connect to the Megaconference from anywhere, over the internet. The videoconference access will be provided through AARNet's Codian Management Platform.

AARNet is one of 12 organisations around the world supplying access to Megaconference participants.

Chris Hancock, CEO of AARNet, said, "The annual Megaconference is an excellent opportunity for Australian research and educational bodies to participate in a global event and discuss almost any topic they want to. The Codian platform will allow AARNet to provide 60 end point connections for schools and universities that want to be involved. As part of our ubiquitous video strategy this means users will be able to access the Megaconference via anything from a desktop PC, right up to broadcasting it throughout a lecture theatre in high definition."

Locally, several educational and research institutions will be participating in the videoconference, including the Australian Catholic University, Griffith University, Newcastle University, University of Western Sydney, Scots College, University of Melbourne, TAFE Queensland and the Australian Institute of Sport.

Evan Harris, Co-ordinator of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education for the Australian Catholic University, will be presenting to the global participants on Australian Indigenous Education Programs.

Harris said, "The Australian Catholic University places a high value on indigenous education and over the last few years, we have won multiple awards for outstanding contributions to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student learning. Our programs have focused on teaching indigenous students education subjects. This year's Megaconference will allow us to showcase to the rest of the world the success of these programs and the benefits indigenous communities gain from them."

Harris's presentation will begin at 11:45am AEDT on November 9.

For further information on Megaconference 2007 or to find out how to connect, visit:

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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:

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