



## AARNET delivers first multigigabit interactive video between Australia and the US

AARNET3 and SXTransPORT successfully tested to go live for the academic year 2005

AARNET, Australias Academic and Research Network, this morning completed the first live very high definition interactive video session between Canberra and Pittsburgh in the USA using the new AARNET3 10Gigabit circuits in Australia, the 10Gigabit Southern Cross Trans-Pacific Optical Research Testbed (SXTransPORT), and the 10Gigabit US National Lambda Rail (NLR).

Crossing live to the conference floor of the Supercomputing event in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, AARNET demonstrated the high bandwidth capabilities of the AARNET3 network and SXTransPORT (an initiative of Southern Cross Cable Networks and AARNET and acquired with assistance from the Australian government) to be launched next year to coincide with the beginning of the new academic year.

Commenting on the success of the live event, Chris Hancock, CEO of AARNET said, "Crossing live to the conference floor of the Supercomputing conference meant the pressure was on for the two-way interactive transmission to go off without a hitch, especially with the worlds foremost high performance computer experts on hand to witness the event.

"With minimal time lags in transmission, the high bandwidth connection made it feel like we were actually on the show floor, not thousands of miles away and will revolutionise the way that tertiary education and research is conducted in Australia.

We are already seeing a collaboration and sharing of resources with universities overseas, which will continue to increase the learning opportunities for students in a country that is far from other global learning centres."

AARNET3 and SXTransPORT will help drive new opportunities in research collaboration for Australian universities, as they provide world-leading broadband connectivity ensuring that Australian researchers are not restricted by technology when it comes to communicating with each other and their overseas counterparts.

Higher education students will also experience benefits from innovations in e-learning that exploit the massive new bandwidth. For example law students at universities across Australia can simultaneously "sit in" on lectures being conducted by world-leading law professors overseas without leaving their classrooms in Australia.

The Supercomputing conference is currently being video streamed to AARNET member universities using AARNETs gateways to the global access grid.

### 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 more information visit the AARNET website [www.aarnet.edu.au](http://www.aarnet.edu.au)

### About AARNET3

The AARNET3 network provides high-speed access across Australia based on STM-64c (10Gbps) circuits from Nextgen Networks with both commodity and research and education gateways to the global Internet and global Research and Education Networks. For more information: [www.aarnet.edu.au/engineering/aarnet3/](http://www.aarnet.edu.au/engineering/aarnet3/)

### About SXTransPORT

The Southern Cross Trans-Pacific Optical Research Testbed (SXTransPORT) is an initiative between Southern Cross Cable Networks and AARNET, providing dual 10Gbps circuits between Australia, Hawaii and the US West Coast connecting AARNET to the Global Advanced Research Networks and facilitating new initiatives in advanced communications services, grid services and e-research collaboration. For more information:

[www.aarnet.edu.au/news/sxtransport.pdf](http://www.aarnet.edu.au/news/sxtransport.pdf)