



AUSTRALIA CONNECTS PAPUA NEW GUINEA TO THE EDUROAM GLOBAL FEDERATION

Sydney, AUSTRALIA 1 February 2010 AARNet, Australias Academic and Research Network has joined forces with Queensland University of Technology (QUT) and Open Systems Consultants to install local wireless networks in Papua New Guinea to connect with the Internet via satellite to the rest of the world.

The wireless network will connect to the eduroam federation and it will allow researchers and academics visiting Papua New Guineas Divine Word University (DWU) at Madang to connect automatically and securely to a satellite network at speeds of up to five Megabit per second for download and one Megabit per second for upload. Authentication traffic will be directed by the Papua New Guinea Academic and Research Network (PNGARNet) to the AARNet backbone.

Chris Hancock, CEO of AARNet said, The collaboration and contributions in kind from AARNet, Queensland University of Technology and Open Systems Consultants will advance research and education opportunities between Papua New Guinea and the rest of the world. Today, we have delivered an essential link to provide visiting researchers and academics with a secure wireless internet network to transmit information and communicate with their counterparts when visit Papua New Guinea.

AARNets collaboration with PNGARNet highlights the strategic importance of bringing NRENs together to improve the performance of innovation to sustain a better world. We are committed to working with our neighbours in the Pacific region to advance collaboration and education in this region. Father Jan Czuba, Chairman of PNGARNet said, PNGARNet is excited to be connected to the eduroam federation through the generous contribution of AARNet, Queensland University of Technology and Open Systems Consultants. International researchers and academics visiting Papua New Guinea will now be able to gain network services automatically via eduroam to connect with their counterparts overseas to foster more collaboration and communication opportunities.

The venture was possible thanks to experts from QUT, AARNet and Open Systems Consultants who created the wireless solution in Brisbane. This was shipped to Papua New Guinea to be installed and commissioned. QUTs staff members, Antony Somerville and Norman Tee, are currently in Papua New Guinea to install the technology and will provide training to DWUs IT personnel on how they can maintain the service.

Following the connection of DWUs Madang campus to the eduroam federation, AARNet, QUT and Open Systems Consultants will be looking to connect the University of Papua New Guinea later in 2010.

PNGARNet provides email, internet, e-learning, data storage, video conferencing and online research support to universities and research institutes. The geographical spread and remoteness of institutions on its network requires its internet connections to be made by satellite.

ENDS

Note to Editor:QUT and AARNet are available for interview opportunities to discuss about Australian research projects that are taking place in PNG. They will also be able to discuss how the eduroam link up will help researchers visiting and working in PNG. To speak to QUT or AARNet, please contact Max Australia.

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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.

About PNGARNetPNGARNet is wholly owned by the Vice-Chancellors Committee, the Vice-Chancellors of all Papua New Guinean universities and was created with the aim of providing high quality, cost efficient internet access to institutions of higher education in Papua New Guinea.

PNGARNET was formed in 2005 by the Commission of Higher Education and its stakeholders, six universities and two research institutions across Papua New Guinea. The universities are University of Goroka, University of Papua New Guinea, University of Technology, Vudal University, Divine Word University and Pacific Adventist University and the two research institutes are National Research Institute and National Agricultural Research Institute.