

EMILY CARR INSTITUTE LINKS TO BCNET

VANCOUVER, BC (April 5, 2004) - **BCNET** (www.bc.net), a non-profit society for the development of advanced networks within the province, announced today that the Emily Carr Institute (ECI) has signed on as a Research and Education Affiliate of BCNET, enjoying connectivity to BC's Optical Regional Advanced Network (ORAN) which is being enabled by GT Group Telecom Services Corp, a 360networks company.

"This is a tremendous opportunity for ECI to show that art, design and media are vital components of the Internet and evolving network technology," says Michael Hrybyk, President & CEO of BCNET. "By joining BCNET and connecting to our ORAN, ECI will be able to collaborate with other connected higher-learning institutions in the province such as BCIT, SFU, UBC, UNBC and UVIC, as well as, have access to other research and education networks across Canada and around the world."

ECI joins BCNET as its 22nd Research and Education Affiliate and the 6th higher-learning institution to be connected to its ORAN.

Michael Clifford, ECI's Vice President of Finance and Administration stated that the BCNET connection greatly enhances the ability of the Institute community to participate in local, national and international visual art, media and design research. *"Our plans include offering courses on interface design for grid computing while providing additional opportunities for our faculty and students to experiment with interactive art, media and design opportunities."*

The connection to BCNET's ORAN will be over gigabit links enabled by GT Group Telecom Services Corp, a 360networks company. Dark fibre will provide high-speed and large bandwidth connectivity for ECI's staff, faculty and students. Thus facilitating the transfer of large graphic files, online collaboration, use of multimedia applications and various other online projects and programs.

"We are pleased to work with BCNET to provide connectivity to its ORAN in support of advanced education and research within the province," said Paul Hatcher, Group Telecom's Senior Vice President, Canadian Sales and Marketing. "This project demonstrates the strength and reach of Group Telecom's network and our continued ability to develop solutions both regionally and nationally."

The Emily Carr Institute will be formally welcomed as a BCNET Research and Education Affiliate at an event in June, where **ECI's President, Dr. Ron Burnett** will be in attendance.

About BCNET

BCNET (www.bc.net) is a non-profit society supporting and promoting advanced networks for the province's research and education communities. The organization serves BC's academic, research and development institutions, government bodies, community organizations and industry groups. BCNET is the province's foremost leader in advanced network technology and is leading the way for enhancing education and research capabilities over the Internet. BCNET is supported by the provincial and federal governments as well as by its regional Member institutions.

About 360networks and its Canadian subsidiary, Group Telecom

360networks and Group Telecom provide telecommunications services and network infrastructure in North America to over 10,000 carrier and commercial customers. We offer a comprehensive range of

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services from traditional local and long distance voice products to innovative products such as optical transport, wavelengths, Internet transport, Gigabit Ethernet, and optical virtual private networks (OVPNs). Our North American broadband fibre-optic network is one of the largest and most advanced on the continent, spanning 44,000 route miles (70,000 kilometers), and reaching 60 major cities, including 17 metro fibre networks in nine Canadian provinces. For more information about 360networks and Group Telecom, please visit www.360.net

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