

ADVANCING TECHNOLOGY CALLS FOR CYBERINFRASTRUCTURE AND NANOTECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT

VANCOUVER, BC (April 27, 2004) – **BCNET** (www.bc.net), a non-profit society for the development of advanced networks within the province, held the first day of the 4th Annual Advanced Networks Conference where keynote speakers **Luis Rodríguez-Roselló**, Director of “Emerging Technologies and Infrastructure-Applications” at the European Commission, Information Society Directorate-General and **Alan Blatecky**, the Executive Director at the San Diego Supercomputer Center called for the focus on the future development of Cyberinfrastructure and Grid Computing.

“Advanced Grids will ensure the upgrade to a state of the art infrastructure necessary for future research to meet the demands of tomorrow’s leading edge users,” said **Luis Rodríguez-Roselló** during his keynote presentation.

Though Grid Computing owes its genesis from eScience, its applications extend into all areas of the world and all walks of life, according to **Luis Rodríguez-Roselló**.

“A new class of distributed infrastructure is needed to address the future requirements of science, education, government and business; this “Invisible Grid” is complex and cuts across a wide range of disciplines, from technology and science, to sociology and deployment,” said **Blatecky**.

Cyberinfrastructure, Advanced Grids, or eInfrastructure all refer to the same thing, the next generation of Grid Computing which is revolutionizing the computing industry. Keynote speakers and other featured speakers for the day emphasize the importance of the development of shared computing resources and the need for a Grid foundation that can support its exponential growth and future metamorphoses.

In Addition To Cyberinfrastructure, Featured Speaker **Victor Jones**, President of the Advanced Systems Institute (ASI) spoke on its recent survey of nanotechnology research in BC and the important advances being made on new materials, diagnostics, and devices operating at the nano scale - 1 billionth of a meter.

“The challenge is to commercialize technologies derived from the special characteristics of materials and processes at the molecular level,” said **Jones**, *“our initiative aims to support BC collaboration within the global network focused on nanotechnology and to enable BC, with its strengths in research, information technologies and life sciences, to realize the full potential that it offers.”*

This year’s conference was made possible by the support and work of the Sponsors, speakers, Program Committee members, BCNET Staff and the Board of Directors, Netera Alliance and WestGrid staff.

Platinum Sponsors: the Ministry of Management Services, Western Economic Diversification and iCORE.

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Conference Supporters: IEEE, Backbone Magazine and Urban Networks

Conference speakers, sponsors, organizers and the over 300 attendees are invited to celebrate the success of today’s event at a reception hosted by **Michael Hrybyk**, President & CEO, BCNET.

About BCNET

BCNET (www.bc.net) is a non-profit society supporting and promoting advanced networks for the

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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 Netera Alliance

Netera Alliance (www.netera.ca) is a non-profit organization responsible for development of the research information infrastructure in Alberta, including Alberta's research network. It represents Alberta's universities, colleges, research organizations and government and coordinates the build and management of the research network and connected resources. It provides support for research and innovation across all disciplines, without preference or partiality.

About WestGid

WestGrid (www.westgrid.ca) is a \$48 million project to purchase and install an innovative grid-enabled computing infrastructure across BC and Alberta. The facilities spanning the two provinces are connected by BCNet, NeteraNet and CANARIE and available to the general research community. The resources support data-intensive computations and collaborative research.

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