

News Releases

University Relations



Memorial University opens Advanced Computation and Visualization Centre

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SUBJECT: Memorial University opens Advanced Computation and Visualization Centre

Today, Memorial University of Newfoundland announced the opening of its new Advanced Computation and Visualization Centre (CVC), the most powerful research computer system in Atlantic Canada.

The CVC gives researchers unprecedented access to parallel computing and high-end graphics capabilities, useful for numerical modelling and simulation—an emerging and increasingly popular way for scientists to visualize complex processes or structures.

"Memorial's new Advanced Computation and Visualization Centre is an important step forward in our pursuit of excellence in research. It also addresses the university's objective to serve its community, providing local research-driven companies and entrepreneurs with access to computing capabilities previously unavailable or prohibitively expensive," said Axel Meisen, president and vice-chancellor, Memorial University.

"This facility will enable researchers to perform leading-edge research on Atlantic Canada's oceanic environment in new and more efficient ways," said Dr. Strangway, President and CEO of the Canadian Foundation for Innovation. "CFI is committed to these kinds of partnerships that help boost Canada's place as a leader in the global economy."

"This project exemplifies Memorial University's commitment to innovation," said the Honourable Gerry Byrne, Minister of State for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA). "It is in partnership with our learning institutions and the private sector that the Government of Canada, through investments such as this, will move the country forward in its research and development capabilities."

"The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador recognizes that investment in research and development, in projects like the CVC Centre, is imperative to remaining competitive and capturing new economic opportunities," said Industry, Trade and Rural Development Minister Kelvin Parsons. "We support technology growth in this province, and will continue to do so, by working with the federal government to ensure that funding is directed at research and development needs in Newfoundland and Labrador in order to take full advantage of emerging economic opportunities in both traditional and new economy industries."

The CVC is part of a Canadian network of high performance computer centres, which gives researchers the benefit of tapping into the computational system best suited to their work. The main computer in Memorial's CVC is a Silicon Graphics Onyx 3400 with 28 processors and high-end graphics capabilities. The Onyx 3400 is augmented by three other SGI workstations located within the centre, and three others distributed across Memorial's campus. As well, a networked CVC computer is located at each of the following universities: St. Francis Xavier, the University of New Brunswick, and the University of Prince Edward Island.

Core funding for the CVC, in the amount of approximately \$680,000, was won by a team led by Dr. Whitmore, Director of the CVC, in a national competition held by the Canada Foundation for Innovation. Additional capital and operating contributions were obtained from eight other partner organizations: Canada/Newfoundland Comprehensive Economic Development Agreement (CEDA); Canada/Newfoundland Agreement on Economic Renewal; National Research Council; Operation ONLINE Inc; Silicon Graphics, Inc.; St. Francis Xavier; the University of New Brunswick; and the University of Prince Edward Island.

The Advanced Computation and Visualization Centre is located in the Chemistry/Physics Building, C3011. More information about the facility and how to obtain a CVC account is available on the CVC Web site at

The CFI is an independent, not-for-profit corporation established by the Government of Canada in 1997 to strengthen the capacity for innovation in Canadian universities and research institutions. The CFI has been entrusted with a capital investment budget of \$3.15 billion and contributes 40 per cent towards eligible project costs, with universities identifying the remaining 60 per cent matching funds.

A complete list of New Opportunities projects by university can be found at: www.innovation.ca.

For more information about Canada's Innovation Strategy or to obtain a copy of either Knowledge Matters: Skills and Learning for Canadians or Achieving Excellence: Investing in People, Knowledge and Opportunity please call 1-800-0-CANADA (1-800-622-6232) or visit <http://www.innovationstrategy.gc.ca>

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