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National LanbdaRail Going Live With Cisco Telepresence

Providing Innovative Life-size Video and Voice Collaboration Capabilities for the Research and Education Community

Cypress, CA, December 3, 2007 -- National LambdaRail (NLR), a consortium of leading U.S. research universities and private sector technology companies, announced today it has implemented the Cisco TelePresence solution to be accessible to the universities and other NLR affiliates that have telepresence capabilities. With NLR's nationwide optical network infrastructure connected to nearly 20 regional optical networks, the solution deployment makes it simple for researchers, educators and administrators to leverage this next generation service.

"NLR's deployment of Cisco TelePresence provides the ability to meet "in person", as it enhances and supports direct face-to-face discussion needed between the geographically distant teams of our research group members," said Erv Blythe, NLR Board Chair and Vice President for Information Technology, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

Tom West, NLR's President and CEO remarked "We are enabling member institutions and regional networks to deploy multiple Cisco TelePresence facilities to take advantage of the full reach of our network to support the research and education processes across the academic community."

"TelePresence is just the kind of application that a regional optical network like OneNet can effectively support to facilitate collaborative research and education across the state and the globe" said Kurt Snodgrass, NLR Board Member and COO for Information Technology & Telecommunications for OneNet, of the Oklahoma State Board of Regents.

The Cisco TelePresence solution provides ultra-high definition 1080p video and high-quality, wideband spatial audio, imperceptible low latency, with comprehensive environmental design. Meeting participants feel as if they are in the same room together, even though they may be located across the globe. With the ability to see and hear others in ultra-high definition video and wideband spatial audio, users experience subtleties and nuance of conversations.

Using life-size, ultra high-definition 1080p resolution provides a higher-quality image that is 6x better than standard television and more than 2x better than HDTV. Specially-designed ultra high-definition cameras support the high-quality video and require no user operation. Wideband spatial audio and multi-channel, full-duplex sound provides excellent voice projection and helps enable multiple simultaneous conversations, just like what typically occurs during an in-person meeting. Specially designed microphones eliminate sound interference.

"Many organizations are already using Cisco TelePresence to change the way they do business. Whether this means being able to make decisions faster, communicate more effectively across cultural or organizational boundaries, or scale scarce resources, we are seeing major transformations in the way people think about communicating," said Charles Stucki, vice president and general manager of Cisco's TelePresence Systems business unit.

As part of NLR's "Cisco TelePresence readiness" initiative, the technology enabling multi-point—or meetings among multiple locations--will be available. This capability enables virtual meetings with participants in multiple—up to 36 segment—locations simultaneously, while

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retaining the in-person experience. This will provide NLR members with the freedom to organize meetings with partners and other colleagues outside the campus.

About National LambdaRail

National LambdaRail Inc. (NLR) is a major initiative of U.S. research universities and private sector technology companies to provide a national scale infrastructure for research and experimentation in networking technologies and applications. NLR puts the control, the power and the promise of experimental network infrastructure in the hands of our nation's scientists and researchers. Visit http://www.nlr.net for more information.