

## First United Nations-Supported "Dialogue Cafés" Launched with Help from National LambdaRail (NLR)

NLR-Operated Research and Education Cisco TelePresence Exchange Brings Groups in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and in Lisbon, Portugal Face-to-Face

**Cypress, CA, June 3, 2010** -- National LambdaRail (NLR), the coast-to-coast, high-performance network owned by the U.S. research and education community, provided the Cisco TelePresence exchange services and international peering connections for last week's launch of the first two "Dialogue Cafés," in Rio de Janeiro and Lisbon, coinciding with the 3rd Annual Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations May 27-29 in Rio.

Dialogue Café is a non-profit initiative, which uses by the life-size, high-definition video and sound of Cisco TelePresence to enable face-to-face conversations between diverse groups of people from around the world so that they can share experiences, learn from each other and work together to find solutions for common problems. With support from the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, Cisco, the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, the Anna Lindh Foundation and others, the Dialogue Café Association is creating a global network of physical spaces — Dialogue Cafés — which will provide access to Cisco TelePresence technology to enable city-to-city and multi-city conversations and activities.

Coinciding with last week's Forum attended by approximately 2,000 political, corporate, religious, youth and non-profit leaders, NLR helped make possible a live discussion, over Cisco TelePresence, between the United Nations Secretary-General's High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations, Jorge Sampaio (in Rio), and the Mayor of Lisbon, Antonio Costa, and the President of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Rui Vilar (in Lisbon). Also as part of the Dialogue Cafe launch, musicians physically located on the two different continents performed together, and students talked about sustainability and e-learning.

Voice and video network traffic from Rio was carried by the Brazilian national research and education network, CLARA, to NLR via AMPATH at the MANLAN research and education exchange point in New York City. Session traffic from Portugal connected to NLR via the pan-European research and education network, GEANT, also at MANLAN. NLR then handled the TelePresence exchange services between the TelePresence systems at the Dialogue Cafés in Rio and in Lisbon.

"The launch of the first two Dialogue Cafes would not have been possible without NLR's TelePresence exchange services and international peering, which enabled the live connection between Rio de Janeiro and Lisbon. NLR did an amazing job," stated Diogo Vasconcelos, president, Dialogue Cafe Association.

"NLR was founded with the goal of breaking down geographic barriers between universities and other research organizations," said Glenn Ricart, president and CEO,

NLR. "We were delighted to apply the expertise we've gained with Cisco TelePresence — connecting over 70 systems across the U.S. and in 4 countries — to bring diverse groups of people on two different continents face to face and contribute to the success of the highly innovative Dialogue Café sessions."

NLR operates the Research and Education Cisco TelePresence Exchange, located in Kansas City, Missouri. The Exchange supports the Unified Research and Education Cisco TelePresence Exchange Service offered by NLR and Internet2.

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**About National LambdaRail (NLR)** Owned and operated by the U.S. research and education community and dedicated to serving the needs of researchers and educators, NLR is the innovation platform for some of the world's most demanding research projects and a wide range of public-private partnerships. NLR's coast-to-coast, high-performance network infrastructure offers unrestricted usage and bandwidth, a choice of cutting-edge network services and applications, and customized support for individual researchers and projects. For more information, please visit [www.nlr.net](http://www.nlr.net).

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