

## **SHARCNET Researchers Benefit from National Funding Boost**

*Canada's High Performance Computing (HPC) capacity receives major boost from \$88 million investment*

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**London, ON, December 21, 2006** – Thanks to a major funding announcement from the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Council (NSERC), a further \$88 million will be devoted to building our national high performance computing capacity that will benefit the entire spectrum of research in Canada. Along with matching contributions from provincial and industry sources, the total boost to HPC capacity will be closer to \$180 million.

"This represents a major leap forward for Canada's HPC community," said Dr. Eliot Phillipson, President and CEO of CFI. "This is a truly national effort, with all seven HPC consortia across the country collaborating as full partners in this project. This investment will provide researchers with the tools to solve large-scale computational problems that we could not even have imagined tackling 10 years ago."

Since 2001, SHARCNET has led the development and deployment of a high performance computing grid in Ontario, with support from CFI, the Government of Ontario and its academic and private sector partners. Additional funding from CFI's National Platforms Fund will allow SHARCNET to expand its infrastructure to remote partner sites, provide more enhanced visualization capability and become a major player in the new pan-Canadian network. Combined with earlier investments, SHARCNET has received over \$120 million to date and ranks as one of the most powerful High Performance Computing Centres in Canada.

"SHARCNET is an enthusiastic supporter of the pan-Canadian HPC network," said Hugh Couchman, Scientific Director of SHARCNET. "It will provide researchers across Canada with an unprecedented research tool, allowing them to compete at the very highest levels. SHARCNET, one of the largest of the seven consortia, has just completed a very large installation of new equipment from the previous CFI funding round. The funding announced today will ensure that our systems become an effective part of the national network and will provide support for the personnel who are a critical component of leading international computational research."

The \$88 million investment announced today breaks down as follows:

- \$60 million was awarded by the CFI under its National Platforms Fund (NPF). This new program was designed to provide the Canadian research community

- with infrastructure and resources that serve the needs of researchers working in a wide variety of research areas at institutions across the country.
- Another \$18 million was awarded by the CFI under its existing Infrastructure Operating Fund (IOF), which assists institutions with the incremental operating and maintenance costs associated with new infrastructure projects.
  - Finally, NSERC has committed a minimum of \$10 million over 5 years to help fund the operating costs associated with the new HPC infrastructure investment.

*The Shared Hierarchical Academic Research Computing Network is a world-class consortium of 16 Ontario colleges and universities in a “cluster of clusters” of high performance computers linked by advanced fibre optics. Its unique infrastructure enables advanced computational research in areas such as science, engineering and business within an active academic-industry partnership.*

*The Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) is an independent corporation created by the Government of Canada to fund research infrastructure. The CFI's mandate is to strengthen the capacity of Canadian universities, colleges, research hospitals, and non-profit research institutions to carry out world-class research and technology development that benefits Canadians*

*NSERC is a federal agency whose role is to make investments in people, discovery and innovation for the benefit of all Canadians. The agency supports some 22,000 university students and postdoctoral fellows in their advanced studies. NSERC promotes discovery by funding more than 10,000 university professors every year and fosters innovation by encouraging more than 800 Canadian companies to participate and invest in university research projects. Over the last ten years, NSERC has invested \$6 billion in basic research, university-industry projects, and the training of Canada's next generation of scientists and engineers.*

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