



EXCE*Lerating* Canadian research:

SHARCNET launches campaign to promote High Performance Computing

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Today, the Shared Hierarchical Academic Research Computing Network (SHARCNET) launched its first annual outreach campaign: EXCE*Lerate*2004. The campaign, which spans March and April, will include interactive training workshops, research colloquiums, and open houses – all geared towards increasing the understanding of High Performance Computing (HPC) and its importance to research. Activities will be held at SHARCNET partner institutions across South Central Ontario, from the University of Windsor to UOIT in Oshawa.

Through the application of high performance computing (HPC) to research, SHARCNET promotes excellence in research and accelerates the production of research results in the natural and social sciences, engineering, mathematics, and business - research results which ultimately benefit the Canadian economy, the environment, our health, knowledge and culture.

Professor Hugh Couchman, SHARCNET Scientific Director, kicked off the EXCE*Lerate* campaign at McMaster University. Couchman observed that High Performance Computing, and those who provide it, are critical to the Canadian research process.

"Through the provision of leading-edge technology, support services, training and researcher outreach programmes, SHARCNET enables innovation that would otherwise not be possible. The EXCE*Lerate* campaign aims to highlight the central role that HPC plays in modern research, and to build and broaden the community that is aware of, and that can take advantage of these crucial resources."

Couchman's opening remarks were followed by a special seminar at McMaster on Computational Symbolic Algebra by Brock University Professor Thomas Wolf.

EXCE*Lerate* events are open to all Ontario researchers, university students, and private sector representatives, SHARCNET-affiliated or otherwise.

The EXCE*Lerate* campaign wraps up in mid-April with *Making Connections: The First Annual SHARCNET Academic-Industry Forum*. This event will unite academic researchers and private sector representatives, and encourage open discussion of the important applications of HPC and the opportunities for collaboration in the province.

A full calendar of events is available at www.sharcnet.ca/excelerate04 .

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About SHARCNET (www.sharcnet.ca)

The Shared Hierarchical Academic Research Computing Network (SHARCNET) is a multi-institutional high performance computing (HPC) institute, which promotes excellence in research and accelerates the production of research results in the natural and social sciences, engineering and business; results which are of benefit to the Canadian economy, the environment, our health and our general welfare.

SHARCNET consists of a consortium of 11 geographically-distributed HPC clusters at academic institutions across South Central Ontario. The consortium is led by the University of Western Ontario, and includes the Universities of Guelph, McMaster, Wilfrid Laurier, Windsor, Waterloo, Brock, Ontario Institute of Technology and York, and colleges Fanshawe and Sheridan. SHARCNET is founded on academic-industrial collaboration. Its private sector partners include Hewlett Packard, Platform Computing, Bell Canada, Nortel Networks, Quadrics Ltd, and the Optical Regional Advanced Network of Ontario (ORANO).

SHARCNET is generously supported by the Canada Foundation for Innovation, Ontario Innovation Trust, Ontario Research and Development Challenge Fund, as well as by its institutional members and industrial partners.

About EXCELeRate2004

“EXCELeRate” is SHARCNET’s annual outreach campaign. This month-long initiative builds on the fact that SHARCNET both promotes “excellence” in research and “accelerates” the production of research results.

The purpose of the campaign is to enhance SHARCNET’s outreach efforts to new and existing users, academic, business and industrial, and educate a broader community on the uses and importance of High Performance Computing. This year’s calendar of activities, from workshops and training to open houses and special events, is available at <http://www.sharcnet.ca/excelerate04>.