

canarie

Canada's Advanced Research and Innovation Network  
Le réseau évolué de recherche et d'innovation du Canada



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **CANADIAN RESEARCHER WINS PRESTIGIOUS INTERNATIONAL AWARD**

**Hossam Abdelgawad awarded International Transport Forum Young Researcher of the Year 2010 for research incorporated into CANARIE-funded ONE-ITS project**

**[Ottawa, Ontario June 7 2010]** Hossam Abdelgawad's research on how to coordinate, control and optimize existing transportation network capacity in the event of a mass urban evacuation won the International Transport Forum Young Researcher of the Year 2010 award. Mr. Abdelgawad, a PhD student at the University of Toronto, has incorporated this research into the CANARIE-funded ONE-ITS (Intelligent Transportation Systems) project, which focuses on using existing sensor, video and photographic data to create more responsive and effective traffic and incident management systems.

"I applaud Hossam and the innovative research he has conducted to gain this kind of international exposure and acclaim", notes the Honourable Rob Merrifield, Minister of State for Transport Canada. "It demonstrates that the significant investment our Government has made to support research, including cyberinfrastructure like CANARIE, enables Canadian scientists and researchers to be global leaders".

Mr. Abdelgawad's research focuses on a novel approach to mass evacuations in the event of a major catastrophe. It was successfully applied during a simulated evacuation of Toronto, incorporating the city's rapid transit system, buses and cars. It is part of the CANARIE-funded ONE-ITS platform, which is a web-based platform integrating a wide range of transportation data. The integration of Mr. Abdelgawad's research into the ONE-ITS platform broadens the scope and capabilities of the platform while enabling more users (city and municipal transportation agencies) to use the sophisticated evacuation models developed. Other future applications of the ONE-ITS platform could enable drivers to get live streamed videos of traffic and other potential disruptions, or put critical traffic information at the fingertips of first responders, enabling them to quickly arrive on the scene of an emergency and take appropriate action.

“All of us at CANARIE congratulate Hossam on this prestigious award,” says Jim Roche, President and CEO of CANARIE. “Global recognition of Canadian research underscores how CANARIE is an essential enabler of innovative research among Canada’s best and brightest”.

For more information, please contact:

Kathryn Anthonisen  
Director of Communications  
**CANARIE**  
(613) 943-5374  
[Kathryn.anthonisen@canarie.ca](mailto:Kathryn.anthonisen@canarie.ca)

### **About CANARIE**

CANARIE Inc. is Canada’s Advanced Research and Innovation Network. Established in 1993, CANARIE manages an ultra high-speed network, hundreds of times faster than the internet, which facilitates leading-edge research and big science across Canada and around the world. More than 40,000 researchers at over 225 Canadian universities and colleges use the CANARIE Network, as well as researchers at institutes, hospitals, and government laboratories throughout the country. The CANARIE Network enables researchers to share and analyze massive amounts of data, which can lead to ground-breaking scientific discoveries. CANARIE’s network, programs, and strategic partnerships with 12 regional networks in Canada, and 100 international networks in more than 80 countries, stimulate research that **delivers economic, social, and cultural benefits to Canadians.**

CANARIE is a non-profit corporation supported by membership fees, with major funding of its programs and activities provided by the Government of Canada. For additional information, please visit: [www.canarie.ca](http://www.canarie.ca).

### **About the International Transport Forum**

The International Transport Forum is a strategic think tank for the transport sector. Each year, it brings together Ministers from over 50 countries, along with leading decision-makers and actors from the private sector, civil society and research, to address transport issues of strategic importance. An intergovernmental organisation linked to the OECD, the Forum's goal is to help shape the transport policy agenda, and ensure that it contributes to economic growth, environmental protection, social inclusion and the preservation of human life and wellbeing. The 2010 International Transport Forum, was held on 26-28 May in Leipzig, Germany, and focussed on *Transport and Innovation: Unleashing the Potential*.

Additional information may be found by visiting [www.internationaltransportforum.org](http://www.internationaltransportforum.org)