



## **CANARIE announces \$12 million second round of Network-Enabled Platforms Program**

**February 17, 2009 (OTTAWA, Ontario)** - CANARIE is pleased to announce that a \$12 million second round of the Network-Enabled Platforms Program (NEP) is now open for proposals of innovative research projects based on the use of the CANARIE advanced network. The NEP-2 program will focus on the development and deployment of middleware tools and related platform technologies or infrastructure that will be used by virtual organizations and interested research communities to support their existing and proposed research activities.

This competitive funding program encourages the definition and implementation of collaborative projects that will accelerate the development of, and participation in, national and international cyber-infrastructure and e-Research platforms. Participants in the program can be from both the public and private sectors.

CANARIE received funding from the Government of Canada in Budget 2007 to further develop the advanced network for Canadian researchers and scientists and to enable network-based technology innovation. The first phase of the NEP program announced in 2007 resulted in 10 projects totalling almost \$15 million in funding commitments. NEP-2 will bring the potential investment in CANARIE's NEP Programs to a total of \$27 million.

"The NEP program is an important instrument to leverage the power of CANARIE's advanced network by supporting the creation of tools that facilitate research and education in Canada", says Guy Bujold, President and CEO of CANARIE. "The projects that are realized as a result of this program contribute to reinforcing Canada's position as a leader in advanced research networks."

The NEP program supports CANARIE's objectives of extending the use of its research network capacity and services, increasing national and international research collaboration, and enhancing Canada's recognition as a world leader in research networking. The NEP program further develops CANARIE's advanced network for Canadian researchers and scientists by enabling network-based technology innovation. By increasing the use of the network and promoting the advancement of the technology used on the network, CANARIE will continue to strengthen science and research in Canada, support innovation, and contribute to increasing the wealth, wellness and wellbeing of Canadians.

The program begins immediately with an invitation for proposals to CANARIE. Details of the NEP-2 program are available on the CANARIE website ([http://www.canarie.ca/funding/nep2/call\\_for\\_proposals.html](http://www.canarie.ca/funding/nep2/call_for_proposals.html)).

CANARIE Inc., based in Ottawa, is Canada's advanced network organization. It facilitates the development and use of its network as well as the advanced products, applications and services that run on it. The CANARIE Network serves universities, colleges, schools, government labs, research institutes, hospitals and other organizations in a wide variety of fields in both the public and private sectors. By promoting and participating in strategic collaborations among key sectors, and by partnering with peer networks and organizations around the world, CANARIE Inc. stimulates and supports research, innovation and growth, bringing economic, social, and cultural benefits to Canadians. The national organization was created in 1993 by the private sector and academia under the leadership of the Government of Canada. CANARIE Inc. is supported by membership fees, with major funding of its programs and activities provided by the Government of Canada.

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