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New grant program to build world-class ICT research teams in Alberta

Grants of up to one million dollars per year are now available to fund world-class researchers in information and communications technology (ICT) at Alberta universities, the President of Alberta Informatics Circle of Research Excellence (iCORE) Dr Brian Unger announced today.

The iCORE program is aimed at attracting outstanding leaders in ICT research to Alberta and retaining existing talent. The new grants, called Chair and Professorship Establishment (CPE) grants, will support research that ranges from fundamental to applied.

"These grants are intended to be flexible and address a wide variety of needs, so that we can build on Alberta's strengths in significant and innovative ways," Dr Unger explained.

The research programs to be supported will vary in size from a single Chair or Professor working alone to teams with ten or more members. Teams may include chairs, professors, research fellows, postdoctoral fellows and graduate students.

The CPE grants are expected to range from \$200,000 to \$1,000,000 per year, for periods from two to five years, and may also cover operating and equipment costs. Five initial target areas for research support have been identified:

- broadband networks including wireless
- software engineering
- scalable high performance computing and computational science
- massive database systems
- nanotechnology and quantum computing

"Our goal is to create an environment that supports and nurtures world-class research, which in turn will strengthen Alberta's global reputation as a leader in this area," said Dr. Lorne Taylor, Minister of Innovation and Science. "We are confident these grants will encourage more of the world's leading ICT researchers to make Alberta their home, and at the same time help keep some of our brightest and the best minds in the province."

iCORE was launched in October 1999 by the Government of Alberta to foster university-based research in ICT with an investment of \$30 million over the next three years. The program is part of a provincial Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Strategy aimed at strengthening and expanding Alberta's technology and knowledge-based economic sectors. The strategy includes a number of initiatives and activities aimed at investing in education, developing Alberta's ICT infrastructure, supporting the growth of ICT business, and investing in research and development.

Grants details are available at www.icore.ca.

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