

MEDIA RELEASE

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I²R to collaborate with NICTA in building innovative wireless network using mobile phones

Singapore, 30 September 2009 – Singapore's A*STAR Institute for Infocomm Research (I²R) will partner NICTA, Australia's Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Research Centre of Excellence, to develop and demonstrate a trustworthy mobile wireless communications and broadcast system. This is the second joint research engagement between the two organizations.

Under a new two-year agreement, I²R and NICTA will design an architecture that will let groups of people connect with each other in real-time using their mobile phones or smart phones, without the need for expensive communications infrastructure. Unlike a traditional wireless network with fixed access points, the connective "tissue" of this temporary network will vanish once the communication is complete. Made up of a number of wirelessly connected smart phones or mobiles, the network forms as different devices come within range of one another and the data "hops" between the users' devices.

"With this project, we are exploring opportunities in the mobile services area which involve trusted collaborative communications," said NICTA Project Leader Dr Roksana Boreli. "This research is seeking a way to share content across a temporary mobile network using existing wireless links like Wi-Fi or Bluetooth, while ensuring that the connections are trusted and cost-effective."

I²R Project Leader Associate Professor Chen-Khong Tham concurs. "What is exciting is that we are exploring ways to encourage mobile phone users to let their phones help others in the vicinity, and recognizing and rewarding the trustworthy helpers."

Offering potential savings in the areas of infrastructure and connection costs, the proposed architecture would be suitable for future streaming, broadcast and unicast applications. The architecture will be based on I²R Co-Project Leader Dr Robert Hsieh's prior work on the Opportunistic Temporal-Pairing Access Network (OPAN) framework.

Professor Lye Kin Mun, Deputy Executive Director, I²R (Research) said, "This is the second time we have had a good research partnership with NICTA and the cross border alliance leads to better co-operation and advantages between the two parties"

"Over the last year, NICTA and I²R have conducted joint research on the development of innovative maritime wireless mesh networks. I look forward to continuing this fruitful association in this exciting new project," said NICTA's Acting CEO Dr Phil Robertson.

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About NICTA

National ICT Australia Ltd (NICTA), Australia's Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Research Centre of Excellence, is developing technologies which will meet the current and future needs of the community in fields which will lead to large economic, social and environmental benefits for Australia. NICTA has five laboratories around the country. Since NICTA was founded in 2002, it has created four new companies, developed a substantial technology portfolio of patent applications and continues to supply new talent to the ICT industry through the NICTA-enhanced PhD program.

NICTA is funded by the Australian Government as represented by the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy and the Australian Research Council through the ICT Centre of Excellence program. It was established and is supported by its members: The Australian Capital Territory Government; The Australian National University; NSW Department of State and Regional Development; and The University of New South Wales. NICTA's partners include: the University of Sydney; University of Melbourne; the Victorian Government; the Queensland Government; Griffith University; Queensland University of Technology; and The University of Queensland.

About Institute for Infocomm Research

The Institute for Infocomm Research (I²R - pronounced as i-squared-r) is a member of the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR) family. Established in 2002, our mission is to be the globally preferred source of innovations in 'Interactive Secured Information, Content and Services Anytime Anywhere' through research by passionate people dedicated to Singapore's economic success.

I²R performs R&D in information, communications and media (ICM) technologies to develop holistic solutions across the ICM value chain. Our research capabilities are in information technology, wireless and optical communication networks, interactive and digital media; signal processing and computing. We seek to be the infocomm and media value creator that keeps Singapore ahead. Website: www.i2r.a-star.edu.sg

About the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR)

The Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR) is the lead agency for fostering world-class scientific research and talent for a vibrant knowledge-based Singapore. A*STAR actively nurtures public sector research and development in Biomedical Sciences, and Physical Sciences and Engineering, and supports Singapore's key economic clusters by providing intellectual, human and industrial capital to our partners in industry and the healthcare sector. It oversees 23 research institutes, consortia and centres located in Biopolis and Fusionopolis, and the area in their vicinity, and supports extramural research in the universities, hospitals, research centres, and with other local and international partners. For more information about A*STAR, please visit www.a-star.edu.sg.

For media enquiries, please contact:

Mr Andrew Yap
Acting Manager, Corporate Communications
Institute for Infocomm Research (I²R)
DID: (65) 6419 1143 Fax: (65) 6466 7716
Email: yapjt@scei.a-star.edu.sg

Dorothy Kennedy
Communications Specialist, NICTA
Ph: 02 9376 2023 or 0488 229 687
Email: dorothy.kennedy@nicta.com.au