

NICTA and Ericsson sign three-year research agreement

National ICT Australia (NICTA) and Ericsson today announced a three-year umbrella agreement for research into next-generation mobile networks to develop technology that will optimise connectivity for the consumer. The agreement is with Ericsson's global research arm and is initially valued at AUD\$2.7 million with scope for expansion.

Tony Malligeorgos, Director of Marketing and Business Development for Ericsson Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands commented that NICTA's world-class research in mobility computing systems complements Ericsson's position as the global leader in mobile telecommunications, connecting about 40 percent of all mobile calls – twice that of any other systems provider.

"NICTA brings proven expertise, use-inspired basic research and a multi-disciplined approach to the partnership," he said. "We are very proud to work with NICTA on this project and leverage Australia's highly skilled ICT research talent pool."

The first project signed under the agreement will investigate advanced mobility support for next-generation networks. Ericsson and NICTA plan to research mobility in the convergence of wireless and wired networks such as 3G to WLAN/LAN, WiMAX to Satellite. The project will be led in Australia by Professor Aruna Seneviratne, Research Laboratory Director of NICTA's Australian Technology Park Laboratory.

Eight researchers from Ericsson and NICTA will collaborate on the mobility management project. Deliverables will include operations testbeds, reports describing application scenarios and proof-of-concept implementations.

A second project under the agreement will research secure real-time operating systems. It will explore the use of NICTA's microkernel-based operating-system and virtualisation technology and formal-verification research to greatly enhance the security of data and communications on mobile-phone handsets. This project will be lead by Professor Gernot Heiser, who heads the Embedded, Real-Time and Operating Systems research program at NICTA's Neville Roach Laboratory.

"Ericsson's leadership and success in telecommunications research and innovation make it an ideal partner for NICTA," said Professor Seneviratne.

Ericsson has one of the industry's strongest R&D commitment – 20,000 granted patents worldwide and the undisputed leader in UMTS/WCDMA patents.

"Mobile telecommunications is constantly evolving and developing new standards, devices and choices for consumers. Through good basic research and a successful research partnership, this research aims to enable devices such as mobile phones to be able to identify the best connection at the lowest cost, whether that be WiFi, LAN, 3G or Bluetooth," added Professor Seveniratne.

Further investing in local research, Ericsson will also sponsor a three-year PhD scholarship in Electrical Engineering and Telecommunications at the University of New South Wales, a NICTA member.

"UNSW shares the enthusiasm of Ericsson and NICTA for the intended collaborative research. The School of Electrical Engineering and Telecommunications is proud to be involved through the meaningful and appropriate award of a PhD scholarship, which augments the University's valued relationships with both Ericsson and NICTA," said Associate Professor Tim Hesketh, Head, School of Electrical Engineering and Telecommunications, UNSW.

About Ericsson

Ericsson is shaping the future of Mobile and Broadband Internet communications through its continuous technology leadership. Providing innovative solutions in more than 140 countries, Ericsson is helping to create the most powerful communication companies in the world. Read more at <http://www.ericsson.com.au/press>

About NICTA

National ICT Australia (NICTA) is a national research institute with a charter to build Australia's pre-eminent Centre of Excellence for information and communications technology (ICT). NICTA is building capabilities in ICT research, research training and commercialisation in the ICT sector for the generation of national benefit.

NICTA is funded by the Australian Government's Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts and the Australian Research Council through Backing Australia's Ability and the ICT Centre of Excellence program.

NICTA 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 is also supported by its partners: the University of Sydney; University of Melbourne; the Victorian Government; the Queensland Government; Griffith University; Queensland University of Technology; and Queensland University.

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