



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CTVR Partners with Japanese Technology Giant on Landmark Optical Networking Research Project

- *First significant partnership for Trinity-based CTVR in Asia-Pacific region*
- *Partnership aimed at using optical networks to facilitate high speed, low cost Internet connections*

February 27th 2008: The Centre for Telecommunications Value-Chain Research (CTVR), headquartered in Trinity College Dublin, has announced that it has entered into a landmark research partnership with NEC Communication Systems, Ltd. (NCOS), part of Japanese technology giant NEC Group, focused on the emerging area of all-optical networking.

Under the terms of the partnership, the CTVR and NCOS - with the support of the Irish Research Council for Science, Technology & Engineering (IRCSET) - will carry out research into the use of optical networks - communications networks based on optical fibres - to facilitate faster, lower cost Internet connections in the future.

Professor Donal O'Mahony, Director, CTVR, said: "This partnership is evidence that the investment programme into science, technology and innovation - spearheaded by Science Foundation Ireland and other state agencies, like IRCSET - is really working. This collaborative research will allow us to assemble world class research talent, which will ultimately lead to wealth generating economic activity downstream".

Martin Hynes, Executive Director, IRCSET, said: "We are delighted to be able to play a substantive role in backing this kind of research initiative. Ireland's future economic growth depends on our ability to continue to become a 'knowledge economy', where science and technology initiatives are supported by both industry and government".

Akira Arutaki, Associate Senior Vice President of NCOS, said: "Ireland and Japan have exceptional records in facilitating important innovations in the fields of technology and communications. We believe that this partnership between NCOS and the CTVR, through ongoing sharing of data and consultation, will build on this record and will result in breakthroughs in the use of optical networking to create faster, lower cost forms of communication".

The partnership will be supported by the IRCSET Enterprise Partnership Scheme, which will involve financial grants to partially fund the employment of post-doctoral researchers and PhD students to carry out research on all-optical networking and the convergence of optical and wireless networks.

Another element of the partnership will be the full time placement of a high level NCOS researcher at the CTVR laboratories in Trinity College. This individual will assist in guiding the ongoing research activity and in liaising between the CTVR and the NCOS research and development teams in Japan.

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Notes to editors:

All-optical networking is a process where data is converted into a beam of light at the edge of an optical network and then kept in optical form until it exits the network at its final destination. The objective is to avoid any conversion of the data back to electrical form - this is faster, cheaper, more power efficient and can also allow for the cost-effective handling of future internet links running at Terabits per second.

About the Centre for Telecommunications Value-Chain Research (CTVR): The Centre for Telecommunications Value-Chain Research is a joint venture between the Irish university sector and Bell Labs, supported by Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) and the IDA. The CTVR combines a multi-disciplinary group of researchers, drawn from many Irish universities, with a select group of industrial partners to work on the engineering and science challenges that will impact on the telecommunications sector of the future. The CTVR is headquartered at Trinity College Dublin. Further details are available at www.ctvr.ie.

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