

PNNL strengthens collaborations through fiber optics

Pacific Northwest National Laboratory is strengthening its collaborations with regional research and development organizations by establishing a fiber-optic connection to the Pacific Northwest GigaPOP (PNWGP) in Seattle. PNWGP connects high-performance international and federal research networks with universities, research organizations and leading research and development and new-media enterprises throughout Washington, Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and British Columbia.

“Now, more than ever, high-performance network connections are essential tools to the success in our research,” said Ray Bair, associate director of Computational Sciences and Mathematics at PNNL. “By allowing information to be transferred more quickly, we believe that the resources available to us through our high-speed OC-3 connection to the Pacific Northwest GigaPOP will enable the PNNL staff to work more closely with our collaborators and provide them with better access to computing and data resources at PNNL.”

The OC-3 also completes a higher-speed connection to the Department of Energy’s Energy Science Network, known as ESnet. “This will be of great value to PNNL’s leading-edge research for DOE,” said Bair, “including the agency’s Scientific Discovery through Advanced Computing program, the Environmental Molecular Sciences Laboratory and our global change research.”

PNNL’s collaborators at the PNWGP include the University of Washington, Oregon Health and Science University, the Defense Research and Energy Network and the universities of Alaska, Montana, Idaho and Montana State.

“The Cell Systems Initiative of the University of Washington and PNNL have signed an agreement to create a joint program in cell signaling,” said Joseph Duncan, chief operations and IT officer for the program at the University of Washington. “This joint program focuses on providing high-bandwidth online collaboration tools and resources to cell biology researchers nationwide and, by extension, worldwide. The PNNL connection to the Pacific Northwest GigaPOP is crucial to the success of this joint program.”

For more information on the Pacific Northwest GigaPOP, see www.pnw-gigapop.net. ♦