



media release

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Ultra-definition screen coming to New Zealand

New Zealand and Australian advanced networks, KAREN and AARNet, are working together to bring ultra-definition video to New Zealand for the first time.

The massive 34 million pixel "OptIPortal" visualisation wall is constructed from 15 x 24 inch high definition LCD screens powered by six quadcore PCs. Linked via KAREN and AARNet across submarine capacity donated by Southern Cross Cable Network specifically for the event, the 2 x 2.8 metre wall will allow real-time, interactive collaboration across the Tasman, and will be showcased at the APAN26 conference.

Chris Hancock, CEO of AARNet said, "AARNet's collaboration with KAREN highlights the strategic importance of bringing National Research and Education Networks together to improve the performance of research and innovation to sustain a better world."

Donald Clark, CEO, REANNZ Ltd said, "Through this demonstration, we are showcasing how KAREN and AARNet are allowing researchers and scientists to explore new projects and possibilities in the fields of astronomy, genomics, geosciences, bio-technology and material sciences across the Tasman. Since KAREN went live we have seen consistent strong traffic flows across KAREN's trans-Tasman link."

The OptIPortal combines ultra-resolution visualisations and high-definition video and audio technologies, creating the most powerful computer display available enabling collaborative research across great distances in real time with participants visually exploring massive data sets.

APAN26 is the 26th gathering of the Asia Pacific Advanced Network Consortium that brings together over 250 people for showcasing advanced broadband networking applications and technologies for research, education and innovation

“APAN26 will explore the very latest developments in broadband networks and the applications that sit on top of them, providing a glimpse of what consumers and businesses might be doing in 5 to 10 years,” said Donald.

APAN 26 will be held in Queenstown, New Zealand on 4-8 August 2008. For information visit <http://www.karen.net.nz/apan26/>

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Appendix: Trans-Tasman collaboration exemplars

Ovine genomics

New Zealand and Australia are working closely to further research into ovine genomics. Three organisations, CSIRO, AgResearch and Baylor HGSC are working with The International Sheep Genomics Consortia to develop public genomic resources that will help researchers find genes associated with production, quality and disease traits in sheep.

Using the high-availability networks provided by KAREN and AARNet, AgResearch will play host to a single database which will actively assemble, process, and annotate the data collected allowing researchers to collaborate more easily from their home laboratories. AgResearch Senior Scientist, John McEwan will be presenting research into the sheep genome to improve wool and meat productivity at APAN 26.

Synchrotron

New Zealand imaging scientists are using the first suite of operational beamlines of the Australian Synchrotron. They can now use KAREN to access a range of synchrotron based capabilities to pursue a wide range of research, particularly in the areas of biotechnology and materials science.

