



Media Release
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NICTA showcases world-first chip technology

NICTA, Australia's Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Research Centre of Excellence, is pleased to announce the first public demonstration of a prototype system using its world-first 60GHz Gigabit wireless (GiFi) chip technology.

"Today, we will be demonstrating the transmission of wireless video using the 60GHz chipset," explained NICTA's Gigabit Wireless Project Leader Professor Stan Skafidas. The demonstration comes after a research effort spanning four years, involving a team of 15 researchers. "Our achievement resulted from understanding emerging technology trends, bringing together a team with the right knowledge and skills and collaborating with key industry players," Professor Skafidas added.

"I am delighted with the progress our Gigabit Wireless team has made," said NICTA Chief Executive Officer Dr David Skellern. "Their success reflects the talent of the people involved and NICTA's determination to undertake imaginative, use-inspired research to build and sustain Australia's future digital economy."

The GiFi chip is the world's first transceiver integrated on a single chip operating at 60GHz on the CMOS (complementary metal-oxide-semiconductor) process, the most common semiconductor technology. The breakthrough will lead to wirelessly connected environments that will enjoy audio and video transfer rates of up to 5 gigabits per second, ten times the current maximum wireless transfer rate, at one-tenth the cost.

NICTA released the chipset last year and today's demonstration is the first time it has been on public display. In the future, Gigabit wireless technology will be used to show DVD movies on High Definition Digital TV without a wired connection and for very fast downloads of content from devices such as PDAs, games consoles and wireless digital cameras.

Professor Skafidas is scheduled to demonstrate the prototype chip following the launch of a research and development grants program by Victorian Government Minister for Innovation, Gavin Jennings, at 11.30am in Melbourne.

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.

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