



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*July 15, 2002*

**Northwestern University, IBM, and Ameritech Announce New Advanced Internet Technology Research Center**

Evanston, Ill. July 15, 1998 --- Providing a focal point for leading edge Internet research and innovation, Northwestern University and IBM, with initial support of Ameritech, Cisco and other corporate partners plan to establish a new research center to advance next generation Internet technology. The Center will undertake cooperative projects with regional, national, and international research and education networks, and will initiate large-scale projects in advanced, next generation Internet research, innovation and experimentation.

"Combining the efforts of educational institutions and corporate partners, this Center will be the incubator for advanced Internet applications. By accelerating the pace of Internet research and collaboration, the killer applications of the future will go beyond what we can imagine today," said John Patrick, vice president, Internet technology, IBM. "Like the Internet in the early 1990's, we expect the new applications and solutions to move quickly out of the research world into the business community."

The Center, which will open in late 1998, will establish strategic initiatives centered on advanced application design, new network services, and network performance. The innovative applications will be specifically designed to take advantage of high performance networking. The Center will showcase examples of innovative technology solutions for the industrial sectors, corporate processes, education and personal communications.

"UCAID applauds this initiative by Northwestern University and its corporate partners, which will accelerate the availability of advanced, network applications for research and education," stated Douglas Van Houweling, President and CEO of UCAID.

The Director of the Center will be Joe Mambretti who will join the Information Technology Division of Northwestern University in August. He will continue his role as the director of the Metropolitan Research and Education Network (MREN), one of the world's most advanced high performance networks.

"The intellectual foundations of our field require continuous replenishment and renewal from within the higher education community. Cisco congratulates Northwestern University for its establishment of this new research center, and looks forward to a productive participation in the scholarly work of its faculty, staff, and students," said Stephen Wolff, executive director, advanced Internet initiatives division, Cisco Systems, Inc.

The Center will have multiple sites on the Northwestern University campuses in Evanston and Chicago and at IBM facilities. The facilities are part of the MREN (Metropolitan Research and Education Network) backbone. The Center will have testbed access to the multi-gigabit Internet2 backbone recently announced by UCAID, Cisco, Qwest and Nortel, coined Abilene. Leveraging this backbone, researchers, academics, entrepreneurs and participating corporate partners will be able to create prototypes of advanced Internet solutions.

"Collaborative work among universities, national laboratories and high technology corporations created the Internet. The Center will continue this tradition. I am delighted that IBM will play a central role in this collaboration," said Mort Rahimi, vice president for information technology, Northwestern University. "I am also pleased with the continued participation of Ameritech to provide world class network infrastructure, services and expertise and Cisco Systems for their network solutions."

"This Center continues the work that Ameritech and regional research institutions began five years ago in pioneering advanced applications for the Internet," said Greg Brown, president of Ameritech Custom Business Services. "Chicago is well on its way to becoming one of the global hubs of the next generation Internet, and Ameritech is uniquely positioned to help deliver the infrastructure and expertise that will bring astounding benefits to researchers and ultimately businesses and consumers for years to come."

Northwestern University has one of the most powerful campus networks in the world, for which it has received national awards. Northwestern is a founding member of the University Corporation for Advanced Internet Development (UCAID), a partnership of over 125 major research universities, which has established the Internet2 project. Northwestern University President Henry Bienen serves on the UCAID Board of Trustees.

Northwestern University, established in 1851, is a leading private research and teaching institution with 17,700 undergraduate, graduate and professional students enrolled in 12 schools and colleges. Located on two lakefront campuses in Evanston and Chicago, it is considered one of the top ranked institutions for effective use of technology. For more information about Northwestern University, visit its Web site at <http://www.nwu.edu>.

IBM is the world's leading provider of information technology products and services and an Internet2 corporate partner. IBM creates, develops, and manufactures the industry's most advanced information technologies, including computer systems, software, networking systems, storage devices and microelectronics. For more information about the company, please visit <http://www.ibm.com>.

Ameritech operates the Internet network access point (NAP) in Chicago, the largest Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) access point in the world. Ameritech has also been selected by the National Science Foundation as the global NAP for the next generation Internet initiative.

Ameritech (NYSE: AIT) serves millions of customers in 50 states and 40 countries. Ameritech provides a full range of communications services, including local and long distance telephone, cellular, paging, security monitoring, cable TV, Internet services and more. One of the world's largest companies, Ameritech (<http://www.ameritech.com>) has 73,000 employees, 1 million shareowners and nearly \$28 billion in assets.

Cisco Systems (NASDAQ:CSCO) is the leading global supplier of internetworking solutions for corporate intranets and the global Internet, and the first Corporate Partner in Internet2. News and product/service information are at <http://www.cisco.com>.

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