

Media Release

For Immediate Release

Setting the 'Hot' Stage for the 40th WorldSkills Competition

May 27, 2009, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada – Eight people, four days, one extensive Information Technology system to configure for an international event that is 2/3 the size of the '88 Winter Games. In less than four months Canada will host the 40th WorldSkills Competition on Calgary's Stampede Park. The international Competition of skills, trade, and technology includes an IT system that will set the precedent for future events of this magnitude. From May 25 until May 29, a team assembled by WorldSkills Calgary 2009 Ltd. will 'hot stage' the Network Operating Centre (NOC) in Winnipeg, MN, using a portion of the equipment.

WorldSkills Calgary 2009 IT Manager, Roger Dery, leads the hot stage team, along with members of some of the IT Project's partnering companies including Cisco, Allstream, HP, and Epic Information Solutions. WorldSkills International will also be present to test and verify the IT system's capability of handling the complicated needs of the WorldSkills Competition. Other partners contributing to the IT Project for the overall event are Fluke Networks, Draka, VM Ware, Microsoft, and Autodesk. Dery says 'hot staging' includes set-up, configuration and testing of the entire NOC. The system includes multiple layers of security and reliability methods. Dery says it is comparable in size to TransCanada Pipeline building networks in downtown Calgary, AB, Canada.

The main goal of the IT Project is to ensure a reliable and secure network for the 40th WorldSkills Competition. Testing the NOC with a reliable representation of the equipment involved will provide organizers with insight on any enhancements needed for the September 1 – 7 event. The international event, held in Calgary, AB, Canada, will involve over 900 Competitors from 51 countries/regions competing in 45 different skills. Each skill will be tested from a Competitor and judging perspective during the hot staging. Other systems include streaming audio and video and secure wireless Internet that will be available for Competitors and guests throughout the grounds.

During the 40th WorldSkills Competition in September, the NOC is set to manage an extensive network of equipment, including:

- o 1,100 monitors
- o 105 46 Inch LCD displays
- o 900 desktops
- o 100 laptops
- o 200 personal printers
- o 4 enterprise printers
- o 9 plotters
- o 450 cell phones
- o 200 CB radios

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The 40th WorldSkills Competition is coming to Calgary, Alberta, Canada from September 1 – 7, 2009. The organizing committee, WorldSkills Calgary 2009, is leading the event coordination with support from WorldSkills International, Skills/Compétences Canada, and Skills Canada Alberta.

Technical Backgrounder

WorldSkills Calgary 2009 Information Technology (IT) Project includes the implementation of a secure, resilient Cisco network supporting high performance wired and wireless infrastructure for the 40th WorldSkills Competition. Selected partners are Cisco, Fluke Networks, and EPIC Information Solutions. They are teaming up with MTS Allstream, HP, VM Ware, Microsoft, Draka and Autodesk. The entire system will be monitored and tested by WorldSkills International to ensure that all the highest level of efficiency is being reaching during the event. The WorldSkills Calgary 2009 mandate is to provide an Information Technology Solution that offers security, reliability and accessibility with the least amount of management throughout the Competition.

The Network Operating Centre (NOC) includes multiple layers of security and reliability methods for the Competition Information System (CIS), which is needed for judging of the 45 skilled categories. It is the first time a system of this capacity will be used. It will set the precedent for future WorldSkills Competitions, and could also be implemented as the future design for educational institutes. NOC includes various security appliances from Cisco and Fluke Networks. The Security Monitoring, Analysis and Response System (MARS) monitors the Data Link and Network layer of the backbone. The NOC backbone is designed on a Windows Server 2008 Platform with VMware/SAN based set-up and backups offloading to an HP Deduplication unit. There are three physical servers each installed with virtual servers. This structuring provides several back-ups if one or more servers fail. Servers can easily be moved while still running, thereby allowing maintenance without causing any downtime. NOC will use several disaster recovery techniques and 8 terabytes of memory to ensure the security and reliability of the system throughout the Competition.

WorldSkills Calgary 2009 Competitors and visitors will experience streaming audio and video throughout Stampede Park and secure wireless Internet within the WorldSkills Competition network, media center and VIP lounge. Equipment used in the IT Project includes:

- o 1,100 monitors
- o 105 46 Inch LCD displays
- o 900 desktops
- o 100 laptops
- o 200 personal printers
- o 4 enterprise printers
- o 9 plotters
- o 450 cell phones
- o 200 CB Radios

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IT Facts

The WorldSkills Calgary 2009 Network Operating Centre (NOC) produces a secure and reliable network for the 40th WorldSkills Competition. It creates innovative technology to set the precedent for WorldSkills Calgary 2009 and the future of the WorldSkills Competitions. The equipment used will provide a legacy of technology, equipment, and education to pass on to students. The WorldSkills Calgary 2009 Information Technology Project showcases the absolute latest in technology.

Features of the IT Project for the 40th WorldSkills Competition

- o Network backbone design created by Cisco Certified Internetwork Experts from MTS Allstream
- o Comparable in size to Petro Canada and TransCanada Pipeline building networks in Calgary, AB, Canada
- o Procurement, design, testing, logistics & staging will all be completed in 6 month time frame; projects of similar scope are completed in 2 years
- o 8 terabytes memory; equivalent to 8000 trucks full of books
- o Over 43 km's of CAT 6 cable supplied from Draka International
- o 98 fiber locations with media cross over installed throughout Stampede Park
- o IronPort scans 5 billion webpages through URL/SPAM filters to eliminate all unwanted content
- o Multiple layers of integrated security employed with Cisco M.A.R.S, Kaseya, IronPort and McAfee
- o Disaster recovery techniques are employed from HP and Epic Information Solutions to ensure the WorldSkills Competition network is 100% stable during the event
- o Firewall scans 5 billion webpages through two filters to eliminate SPAM and unwanted content
- o 2 Network Operating Systems (NOC's) in Stampede Park; one the nerve system of the network to monitor traffic; one a simulation for public observation and learning
- o VIP lounge for dignitaries in Stampede Park's Rotary Dream House includes 46" televisions, home theatre system, BluRay, Satellite, 5 computers with wireless internet
- o Technology template will be used for future WorldSkills Competitions, and could also be implemented as future designs for educational institutes
- o 1100 Samsung monitors, 105 Samsung LCD displays, 800 HP desktops, 100 HP laptops, 200 personal printers, 5 enterprise HP printers, 10 HP plotters, 450 Samsung cell phones, 200 CB Radios

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