

Researchers from around the world will gather at the Citadel Halifax Hotel, from May 15 to 18, to share the latest knowledge and expertise in communications technology.

Communication Networks and Services Research Conference 2005 (CNSR 2005) will provide a forum for practitioners from all areas of information and communications technology to come together and learn from one another's research. It will be the third international conference of this type held in Atlantic Canada in as many years.

"Atlantic Canada has a history of innovation in the communications field," says conference chair Zhizhang (David) Chen of Dalhousie University. "This year's conference will showcase many innovations while providing a platform for a wide spectrum of technical presentations." Dr. Chen says participants are expected from around the globe, including such countries as China, France, Germany, Iran, Ireland, Thailand, the United States and, of course, Canada.



The two-and-a-half-day conference will have two parallel sessions. In addition to regular technical presentations, it will feature keynote speeches, industrial panel discussions, tutorials and workshops.

The first keynote speaker will be Alberto Leon-García, a University of Toronto professor who will also serve

CNSR 2005: Herald of an Emerging Innovation Economy

as the general chair of the conference. Others include Vijay Bhargava, from the University of British Columbia, and Brian O'Shaughnessy, vice-president of video and access technology development for Bell Canada.

Leon-García's keynote speech, entitled Telecom Industry, University and Government Collaboration:

Opportunities for an Industry in Transition, will discuss the many pressures the telecom industry is currently experiencing. "New access networks, IP infrastructure consolidation, new IP-based services, competition, and new business models are creating opportunities for meaningful and significant collaboration in the short, medium, and long term," Leon-García says.

Building on a history of innovation

Atlantic Canada's history in communications technology includes the stories of innovators who have made major contributions to the field: Bell and his telephone; Marconi and his wireless-radio milestones in Newfoundland and Glace Bay, Nova Scotia, the site of North America's first transatlantic radio station; Glen Glenn, from Chipman, New Brunswick, who pioneered radio and sound technologies for the American film and television industries and founded a world-leading Hollywood sound recording company.

Even the Pony Express, once the fastest means of communication, had its roots in Atlantic Canadian ingenuity. In 1849, to speed the arrival of news from Liverpool, England, to New York City, a pony express service was established between Halifax and Victoria Beach, N.S., on the Bay of Fundy. From there, a chartered steamship took the news packages to Saint John, N.B., for transmission by telegraph to New York.



Brian O'Shaughnessy, PEng, Bell Canada's vice-president of video and access technology, is responsible for BCE's Bell University Laboratories program.

partnership
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The Way Ahead: Partnering for Innovation

Today's communications-technology innovators, like their illustrious forebears, are committed to success. CNSR project partnerships between the University of New Brunswick, Dalhousie University, the Université de Moncton, ACOA's Atlantic Innovation Fund and such companies as Aliant, Nautel, Seimac, Nortel and Leadership International are creating new R&D opportunities in the region.

One example of a fruitful R&D partnership is the new collaboration between Aliant and UNB. Aliant's Wireless Innovation Fund is investing \$450,000 over the next three years to the Next Generation Wireless Telecommunications Systems for Mobility Project at UNB. Headed by computer science professor Bernd Kurz, this project will result in technology that will enable service providers to deliver a wide variety of mobile applications to subscribers across the globe through the most appropriate network.

