

March 21, 2007

Digital City Network

- Digital Media is, in many ways, at the forefront of the global economy due to its dependence on technology and networks and its rapid evolution.
- The Digital City Network (DCN) connects global communities to stimulate business, grow digital media, foster exchanges, and cope with the impact of globalization on the industry through use of technologies and high-speed fibre networks.
- Partners with a demonstrated commitment to open communication and innovation were sought to join the Network. The partners are: Paris, France; Dublin, Ireland; Guadalajara, Mexico; Dusseldorf, Germany; Skopje, Macedonia; Sofia, Bulgaria; Chennai, India; Singapore; Osaka, Japan.
- Toronto and San Francisco may wish to collaborate with other cities that have become part of the Digital City Network when common interests are identified. The areas of collaboration between Toronto and San Francisco are:
 - 1) Building awareness of our Digital Media sectors and enhancing our reputations as leading creative centres.
 - 2) Growing the digital media industry by encouraging greater integration and investment in digital media companies located in Digital City Network cities and regions.
 - 3) Establishing a global network infrastructure between the Digital City Network cities to enhance next-generation connectivity.
 - 4) Establishing local collaboration centres as a focal point for Digital City Network city activities and access to the international network.
 - 5) Developing joint educational programs and exchange opportunities between Digital City Network cities to prepare our students for the global future.
- Toronto's DCN participation will:
 - 1) maintain the momentum of the ICT sector in Toronto;
 - 2) promote the region's accomplishments and potential to the world;
 - 3) provide high-speed networks with connection rates a thousand times faster than what is associated with broadband today;
 - 4) assist in implementing Toronto's ICT cluster development strategy;
 - 5) improve the long-term competitiveness of the region's ICT sector so that it continues to be a leading source of employment and wealth creation;

- 6) gain international exposure and global recognition as one of the most innovative, creative and productive locations in the world for ICT research, education, business and investment; and
 - 7) assist ICT firms adapt to rapidly changing business circumstances.
- San Francisco sought regions with a demonstrated legacy of co-operation between their companies and San Francisco. An established partnership between San Francisco and the Canadian Film Centre Habitat New Media group and the Toronto animation community assisted in the selection of Toronto as a Network partner.
 - Toronto in many ways represents the best possible partner for San Francisco. They are two leading North American cities in terms of diversity, world class universities, and rich cultural traditions.
 - Additionally, the Toronto waterfront revitalization project to establish an extensive fibre technology to facilitate high-speed communications for residents and companies, is serving as a model for San Francisco's Digital Cluster.
 - DCN represents a commitment among member international cities and regions to provide leadership in the evolution of Next Generation Internet focusing on issues of public policy, industry collaboration, research and development, and community engagement
 - The primary objectives of DCN are to:
 - 1) respond to globalization through creation of partnerships;
 - 2) maintain ICT competitiveness in member regions through global collaboration, and relationship building;
 - 3) develop joint educational programs and exchanges between members of the DCN to further educate students about the global future of the industry;
 - 4) enhance next-generation connectivity between DCN partners.
 - DCN was founded by Joaquin Alvarado, founding director of the Institute for Next Generation Internet at San Francisco State University. DCN is being facilitated by San Francisco State University and San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom's Digital Media Advisory Council.

Toronto sector background

- The ICT sector is one of the region's largest private sector employers with a core of more than 3,300 firms and 150,000 employees.
- The Toronto region's ICT cluster records sales of over \$32 billion and exports valued at over \$6 billion annually.
- Five Toronto ICT companies ranked in the top 25 of Deloitte's *2006 Canadian Technology Fast 50 Winners* have experienced record revenue growth of 3.9 per cent over the past five years
- Three of the five companies recognized by Deloitte's Leadership Award for business performance, are located in the Toronto region.
- Six square kilometres of the Toronto downtown core has been blanketed with WiFi coverage creating one of the largest WiFi zones in the world.
- Toronto's waterfront revitalization will include an extensive fibre technology to facilitate high-speed communications for future residents and companies.
- According to *Invest in Canada*, about 70 per cent of ICT products manufactured in Canada are exported with seamless access to the North American market.
- ICT Toronto is an exciting, new, multi-stakeholder partnership that will implement a strategy to position Toronto as one of the five most innovative, creative and productive locations in the world for ICT research, education, business, and investment by 2011.
- Expert talent, industry-leading R&D and affordable business costs make Toronto a global hub for ICT and New Media development.
- The Toronto region has the largest concentration of private ICT facilities in Canada and the third largest ICT employment in North America, behind San Francisco and New York.
- Toronto's internationally-recognized universities and colleges offer degrees and diplomas in Information Studies, Computer Science, New Media, Information Technology Management and Computer Engineering. These and other training facilities promote and facilitate continual skill enhancement within the ICT sector.
- Canada is the leader in broadband concentration among the G8 countries.
- In 2005 Canada's Internet penetration was 67.9 per cent, ranking third highest in the world after Australia and the U.S.A.