**MURPA Seminar 14 May 2009 at 10.00am**

Presenter: Larry Smarr Harry E. Gruber Professor, UCSD's Jacobs School Department of Computer Science and Engineering Director, California Institute for Telecommunications and Information Technology

Location: Room 135/Building 26 Monash Clayton via HD Video from UCSD

**Can a Greener Internet Help Us Moderate Climate Change?**

**Abstract**

This year marks a turning point in the debate on global climate change. The focus of the discussion is rapidly moving from a scientific analysis of how human activity effects climate change to a political process on how best to regulate greenhouse gas emissions. The Climate Group's Smart 2020 study reveals that the global Information and Communication Technology (ICT) industry produces greenhouse gases equivalent to that produced by the aviation industry (~2-3 percent). Furthermore, the ICT sector's emissions will nearly triple, in a business-as-usual scenario, from 2002 to 2020. On the other hand, the Climate Group estimates that transformative applications of ICT to electricity grids, logistic chains, intelligent transportation and building infrastructure, and other social systems can reduce global greenhouse gas emissions by about 15 percent— five times ICT's own footprint! I will discuss initiatives on university campuses in the US and Australia to innovate new solutions to these challenges.

**Bio**

Larry Smarr became founding director in 2000 of the California Institute for Telecommunications and Information Technology (Calit2), a University of California San Diego/UC Irvine partnership. He holds the Harry E. Gruber professorship in the Jacobs School's Department of Computer Science and Engineering at UCSD. For the previous 15 years as founding director of the National Center for Supercomputing Applications Smarr helped drive major developments in the planetary information infrastructure: the Internet, the Web, scientific visualization, virtual reality, and global telepresence. Smarr was a member of the President's Information Technology Advisory Committee for President Clinton and served until 2005 on the Advisory Committee to the Director of the National Institutes of Health and the NASA Advisory Council. He is a member of the National Academy of Engineering and a Fellow of the American Physical Society and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

**More Information and Contacts for Larry Smarr**

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**Monash Contact**

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**Coffee from 9.30am**

VeRSI is supplying the coffee and supports fair trade by buying fair trade coffee. This eCoffee session has been registered as an Oxfam Coffee Break.