

## **West Virginia University Institute of Technology Joins WVHTC Foundation's Global Grid Exchange**

MONTGOMERY, WV - West Virginia University Institute of Technology (WVU Tech) announced November 28, 2005 that it has joined the West Virginia High Technology Consortium (WVHTC) Foundation's Global Grid Exchange™ computing initiative.

"We're very pleased to partner with the Foundation in the creation of an advanced infrastructure like the Global Grid Exchange. We believe grid computing to have tremendous utility for colleges and companies alike. Our students and faculty members have already demonstrated a keen interest in using the platform," said Charles Bayless, president of West Virginia University Institute of Technology. "Involvement with this initiative will provide our students access to the high-demand computing skills of tomorrow."

An initiative of the WVHTC Foundation, the Global Grid Exchange is an online marketplace that delivers the spare processing power of countless Internet-connected computers to users involved in business, science, and medical research. With access to hardware resources ranging from PCs to mainframes, the Global Grid Exchange can deliver computing power on demand to any desktop computer over the Internet, creating a cost-effective computation infrastructure able to drive innovation in the commercial, government and academic sectors around the world.

"I am personally very proud that my alma mater, WVU Tech, has agreed to partner with the WVHTC Foundation on the Global Grid Exchange initiative. WVU Tech has always been a leader in technology-focused education. This is just another example of Tech taking that leadership role. Consider, for example, that, in addition to providing us access to the idle processing power of campus computers to power the grid, Professor Jim Cercone is already teaching a special projects course about the grid, and last Spring, a team of WVU Tech students actually won the higher-ed grid computing project competition we sponsored. I really see this as a win-win partnership for both our organizations," said James Estep, WVHTC Foundation president and chief executive officer.

Ultimately, Global Grid Exchange providers enable the exciting discoveries made by researchers, scientists, engineers and businesses using the grid. All that is necessary for them to do so is that they be willing to share their computers' spare processing power. If they are, they simply download and install a compute engine from the grid web portal ([www.globalgridexchange.com](http://www.globalgridexchange.com)). Similar to a screen saver, the compute engine operates only when a provider's computer is not being used. It then processes tasks, smaller parts of an overall job, requested from the Global Grid Exchange server – all in a highly secure manner. Results can then be returned to the researcher in a fraction of the time that would normally be required.

The Global Grid Exchange is one of various components of an overall initiative by U.S. Rep. Alan B. Mollohan, D-W.Va., aimed at strengthening the competitiveness of West Virginia and U.S. companies by creating and utilizing high-tech processes.

"Our academic institutions will play a central role in the continued growth of our state's high-technology sector. They are major partners in our research efforts, and the talented graduates they produce are making key contributions to our high-tech companies and organizations," Mollohan said. "I am pleased that WVU Tech is such an active partner in the Global Grid Exchange, and I am sure that the school's involvement will enhance the power and reach of this innovative technology tool."

U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall, also D-W.Va., said, "I commend the vision of WVU Tech and its many talented individuals who have made the growing partnership with the global computer grid possible. Tapping an idle reservoir of computing, not only can make dollars, it just makes plain sense. I want to commend the father of the grid concept, my colleague, Alan Mollohan, for his forward thinking and bringing our state together as the grid stretches to every hill and hollow of our State. Alan and I are working with several other institutions, to form a more perfect partnership for the next century, which will depend as much on technology as our previous one did on coal."

***About the Global Grid Exchange.***

An initiative of the West Virginia High Technology Consortium Foundation ([www.wvhtf.org](http://www.wvhtf.org)), the Global Grid Exchange is the world's largest open public Internet computing grid accessible by users directly from their desktops. Global Grid Exchange delivers unprecedented computing power – on demand – to any desktop computer over the Internet. Powered by Frontier® from Parabon® Computation, Inc., the Global Grid Exchange empowers users with an incomparable platform-independent grid computing environment for the easy development and deployment of distributed computing applications. For additional information about the Global Grid Exchange, visit [www.globalgridexchange.com](http://www.globalgridexchange.com).

***About WVU Tech.***

Located just 30 minutes outside the State Capitol of Charleston, WVU Tech is nestled between the Appalachian Mountains and the beautiful Kanawha River. This environment provides students with a hometown feel with university advantages. The Tech campus is rich in history and heritage with over 100 years of dedication to higher education with academic excellence through nationally recognized programs of study. Tech stands out as an institution of higher learning with numerous accolades. According to U.S. News & World Report's 2005 Best Colleges edition, Tech's engineering program was ranked in the top 100 nationwide. In addition, in the 2004 U.S. News & World Report Best Colleges edition, Tech was ranked 4th among public comprehensive colleges in the South.