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IBM Expands Latin American Grid Computing Initiative

Florida Atlantic University Joins Grid Generating More IT Opportunities for Hispanic Students



ARMONK, NY and BOCA RATON, FL -- (MARKET WIRE) -- 12/01/2006 -- IBM (NYSE: IBM) today announced that Florida Atlantic University has become the tenth member of the IBM-led Latin American Grid (LA Grid), an effort to create professional IT opportunities for the Hispanic community and to advance research in areas such as life sciences, weather modeling and prediction.

LA Grid, a collection of computing resources in North America, Latin America and Spain woven together to act as one massive supercomputer, has become one of the world's largest university grid initiatives. LA Grid joins universities in several countries and the Barcelona Supercomputing Center to provide computational computing power to researchers and students, advance research initiatives for both the group and the individual university members and to foster greater collaboration on social research.

While joint research programs in hurricane mitigation, life sciences and healthcare are the priority for LA Grid, member universities can also access the joint supercomputing resources for independent research. FAU, for example, plans to conduct research on the human genome, bioinformatics mapping, computational physics, integrated computation and communications, video processing, computer simulation and information security.

"We are very excited to be a part of the LA Grid initiative and look forward to collaborating with IBM and our partners," said Dr. Larry F. Lemanski, FAU's vice president for research. "FAU was selected because of our advanced research, Hispanic technical professional talent, and executive commitment to fulfill the vision of LA Grid."

Talent development is a major goal for LA Grid members. Studies, like a May 2006 Taulbee survey done for Computer Research News, have found there are very few Hispanic students graduating college with IT degrees. As part of their commitment to the grid, member universities provide students with hands-on access to research projects and IBM-sponsored programs that provide internships and mentoring to students.

"IBM is investing talent, technology and resources for this initiative to make it a catalyst to build the next generation of technology talent across the U.S. and Latin America," said Pete Martinez, vice president, IBM Consulting Services. "The strong partnership between FAU and other academic institutions will play an important role in creating jobs, driving innovative technology into the marketplace and stimulating Florida's economy."

IBM's first priority for LA Grid is to extend research in areas facing the United States, Latin America and the world like hurricane mitigation and disease research but the company is also hoping the grid will help encourage Hispanic students to pursue careers in computer technology and engineering. Since LA Grid's inception last December, IBM has already given over 30 internships to students at LA Grid member universities. As the level of student involvement in the grid increases, IBM will offer additional development programs like one-on-one mentorships and, in some cases, full-time employment to students working on the grid as well.

By joining LA Grid, FAU will contribute research scientists and the university's supercomputer based on IBM BladeCenter Systems from the university's College of Engineering and Computer Science.

Grid computing links heterogeneous computing resources, often in multiple locations, to allow numerous resources to work and act as one. Just as an Internet user views a unified instance of content via the Web, a grid user essentially sees a single, large virtual computer. By doing so, grids allow organizations to optimize computing and data resources, pool them for large capacity workloads, and share them across networks.

FAU will formally begin its work on the grid this month. Current LA Grid participants include Florida International University, the University of Miami, the University of North Florida and the University of Puerto Rico, Monterrey Tech (Mexico) as well as the Universidad de la Plata (Argentina) and Instituto Universitario Aeronautico (Mexico).

Additional grid members providing computing power and resources include the Barcelona Supercomputing Center (Spain) and IBM South Florida.

With FAU joining the grid, LA Grid will add another 150 servers to the grid and will have 1,500 available member processors for shared use. IBM's goal is to see LA Grid grow to include as many as 30 universities and 10,000 member processors by 2010.

FAU, nationally recognized for its ethnic diversity, has a student population that is 17 percent African-American, 16 percent Hispanic, four percent international and five percent Asian.

ABOUT LA GRID

To learn more about LA Grid, go to www.lagrid.fiu.edu.

ABOUT IBM

To learn more about IBM, go to www.ibm.com. To learn more about IBM Grid, go to www.ibm.com/grid.

ABOUT FAU

To learn more about Florida Atlantic University, go to www.fau.edu.

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IBM CONTACT:
Lisa Lanspery
IBM Media Relations
914-766-1273
lisalans@us.ibm.com

FAU CONTACT:
Gisele Galoustian
FAU Research Media Relations
561-297-2010
ggaloust@fau.edu

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Sustained and robust growth as evident in the increase of the company's net income by 230 percent over the past three years.

Don Schenker, Winner of the CEO Technology Award

Currently a candidate for Ph.D. in computer engineering at Florida Atlantic University, Mr. Schenker is a founder of Synergistix. He is known as a pioneer in designing and building workflow solutions for the life science industry, most notably, The Call Activity Tracing System (CATS). This is the company's flagship product that serves as a completely integrated solution combining sales force automation with back office functionality. Contract management, call planning, market share/prescribing information, call tracking and sample management are all part of CATS technology.

The independent panel that conferred the awards noted Mr. Schenker's "high touch" approach that drives the success of Synergistix. He distinguishes himself in that he is personally involved in recruiting and developing an effective management team that mirrors his focus on core values and an unwavering commitment to each customer's success.

"Our goal is to make every customer we engage with a reference customer, a philosophy that demands strong leadership and oversight of top-down programs. That's how we ensure success", said Mr. Schenker.

As a recognized pharmaceutical industry thought leader, Mr. Schenker has served on the Board of Directors of the PDMA Alliance and Sharing Conference for two consecutive two-year terms, which began in 2003 and run through the current year.

Raul Wong, Finalist in the Technology CIO Category

As Synergistix' co-founder, Raul Wong has 17 years experience in the IT field. In addition to being responsible for developing the company, Mr. Wong's strength also lies in the development of the people who comprise Synergistix.

"It's been my vision and my responsibility to take this organization from a small startup to a world-class service organization", said Mr. Wong.

This accomplishment was duly cited by the panel noting that Mr. Wong spearheaded the company's efforts to move all production equipment to a secure collocation facility to make all client connectivity services self-supporting. It was also pointed out that Mr. Wong has worked diligently to create an atmosphere where new ideas and creativity are encouraged among all levels of the organization.

In summing up these important industry awards, Mr. Schenker said, "These citations motivate all of us to continue our mission in finding the solutions that our customers need and to support the practices that will ultimately benefit the community at large. We're grateful to have been so honored in our efforts."

For more information contact Don Schenker, Synergistix, Inc., at 866-732-8665 or Christine Delfino Seneca, Delfino Marketing at 914-747-1400 or via e-mail at newsroom@delfino.com

Editors Note: To download the text of this release in digital format, go to:

www.delfino.com/synergistix-newsroom.

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Synergistix, Inc. was founded in 1997 and has since become one of the fastest growing technology companies in the pharmaceutical sales force automation industry.

Synergistix is focused on turnkey solutions to overcome a wide range of issues that challenge pharmaceutical companies focused on staying in compliance with the PDMA and other regulatory mandates. The company's highly configurable and proprietary Call Activity Tracking System (CATS) was specifically designed for the pharmaceutical industry. It provides sales managers and their sales force with easy-to-use sales automation and customer relationship management support that seamlessly integrates back office data and market intelligence with the in-field marketing efforts of pharmaceutical company sales representatives.

Today, Synergistix maintains strategic alliances with a number of vertically integrated industry partners to provide a wide range of solutions to overcome the challenge of staying in compliance with federal and state regulatory mandates.

In 2006, Synergistix won its second consecutive South Florida Business Journal Pinnacle Award "for overall business excellence and innovative practices." In addition, company President Don Schenker was the recipient of the publication's CEO of the Year Award. Synergistix also won the 2004 Microsoft Healthcare Users Group (MS-HUG) award for the innovative development and use of Microsoft® technology.

Synergistix is based in Hollywood, Florida, and is distinguished by operating exclusively from the United States, ready to serve customers around the world with no reliance on offshore technical services or technical support.

Contact: Christine Delfino Seneca

914-747-1400

christine@delfino.com