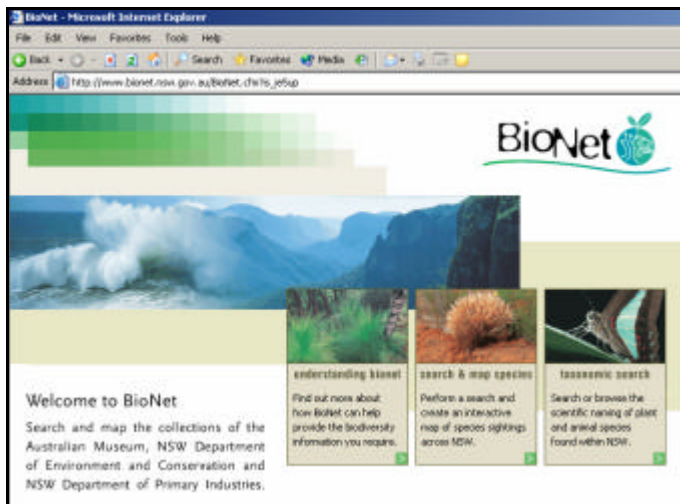


## AC3 HOSTS KEY NSW BIODIVERSITY INFRASTRUCTURE

As a species, we're largely ignorant of the effects that agriculture, industry, housing and energy consumption have on our native flora and fauna. Left unchecked, such habitat loss will result in massive loss of biodiversity.



ac3 provides managed co-location services for a new biodiversity website, created by the NSW Government

As a result our quality of life will be greatly reduced, and the intricate web upon which all life depends will be affected.

But ignorance won't be an excuse for much longer, following the release of a biodiversity website by the NSW Government—*BioNet*. *BioNet* is an online data mining and mapping tool that lets users search datasets of New South Wales flora and fauna and create high-res custom maps.

*BioNet* combines species and location information from the NSW Department of Environment and Conservation, the Department of Primary Industries and the Australian Museum.

"Until now, anyone who wanted species information had to inquire at up to half a dozen government agencies for data that could take up to six weeks to arrive," says Project Manager Gary Hyde. "By comparison, *BioNet* provides comprehensive information instantly."

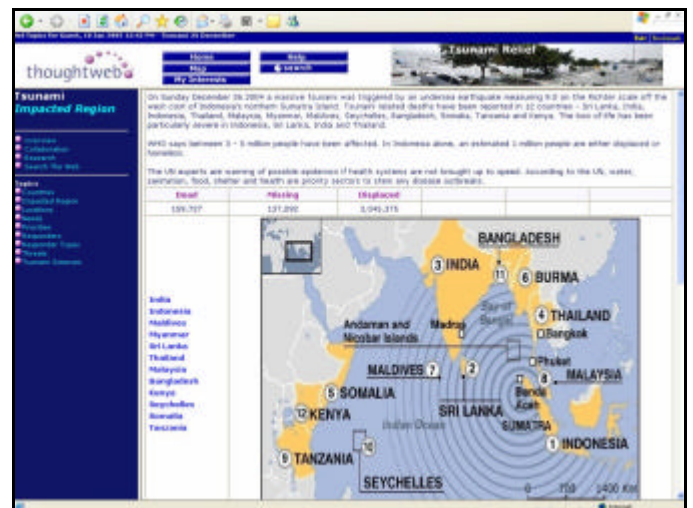
The *BioNet* infrastructure is hosted and managed by ac3. For more information visit [www.bionet.nsw.gov.au](http://www.bionet.nsw.gov.au).

### ... AND HOSTS TSUNAMI RELIEF WEBSITE

ac3 is hosting a relief-coordination website which provides logistic support and information in the wake of the Boxing Day tsunami.

The site — <http://www.thoughtweb.com/relief/> — was established by Thoughtweb, a Sydney-based company, in the days following the tsunami. The site provides up-to-date information, drawn from diverse sources, including the Pacific Disaster Centre in Hawaii, and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

"The ability to respond effectively to disasters such as the tsunami require effective knowledge sharing, collaboration and coordination across the global humanitarian community involved in relief and recovery operations." said ThoughtWeb chief executive, Mr Chris Murray.



The Thoughtweb tsunami relief site is being used globally to coordinate the activities of twelve countries and more than 200 relief organisations.

ac3 chief executive Philip McCrea said: "When we were approached by Thoughtweb to host the site we gladly agreed to do our bit to assist with the relief effort."

The Relief site is also supported by Sun Microsystems, EDS and Oracle.

## AC3 AND ASTROVISION TO PROVIDE AN "EYE IN THE SKY"

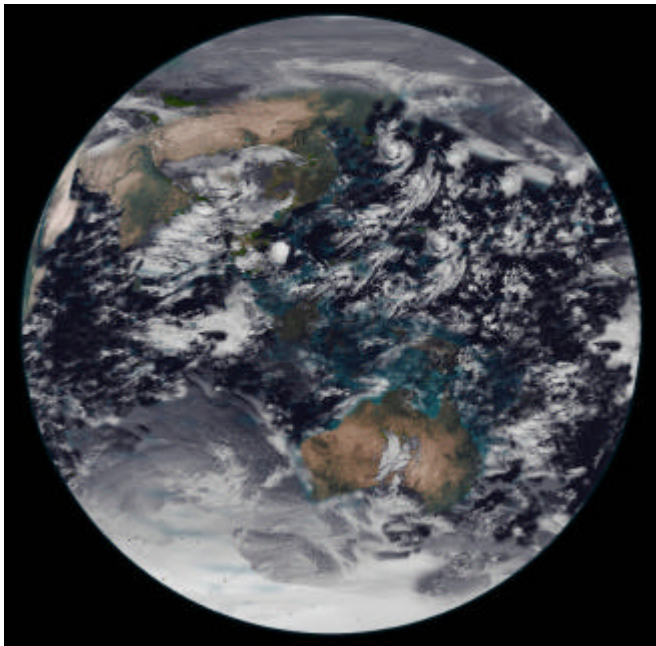
ac3 and Astrovision have joined forces to pursue opportunities in the burgeoning space-imaging business.

Astrovision, an Australian satellite technology company, holds the Asia-Pacific rights to advanced space cameras and sensors that will capture images and data from a geostationary satellite due for launch in 2008.

They plan to launch a geostationary satellite—i.e. a satellite that orbits the earth at the same speed as the Earth's rotation. This will provide continuous coverage 24x7x365, at a resolution of as good as 250 metres.

"It will provide real-time imaging of an area stretching from India to Japan, Hawaii and the Antarctic," according to AstroVision's managing director, Michael Hewins.

"Based on technology from NASA's deep space research missions, the satellite will allow us to continuously monitor weather patterns, ship movements, ocean temperatures, volcanic ash emissions, lightning strikes and bush fires."



The Astrovision satellite will be geostationary, and will take continuous pictures of this view of the earth..

ac3 chief executive, Dr Phil McCrea says: "Our relationship with AstroVision aims to secure projects and tenders that require high-quality technical and information systems support.

"What ac3 brings to the relationship is strong on-the-ground technology delivery with around the clock managed co-location services. We have experience designing, configuring, and managing supercomputers and large databases, and a strong background in designing and managing secure networks."

For more info see [www.astrovisionaustralia.com](http://www.astrovisionaustralia.com).

## NEW SGI COMPUTER AT AC3

ac3 has taken delivery of its latest supercomputer, an SGI Altix 3700 Linux-based machine, to replace its ageing SGI Origin 2400.



The new 16 processor Altix 3700 supercomputer.

"The new supercomputer operates 50 percent faster than the Origin 2400 machine", according to ac3's Senior Systems Manager, Frank Crawford. "CPU speed on the new 3700 is over 70 Gigaflops, although it hasn't been officially benchmarked yet."

Many users will benefit from an ability to easily migrate large processing jobs onto a much larger SGI Altix supercomputer at APAC in Canberra.

## DATA CENTRE POWER UPGRADE

A half million-dollar upgrade to ac3's ATP data centre infrastructure has resulted in a major improvement to the company's UPS, battery and air-conditioning systems.

The UPS system has been increased to 800KVA, providing 400KVA in fully redundant mode. Battery capacity on the UPS's has been quadrupled.

## LET AC3 LOOK AFTER YOUR COMPUTERS

ac3 provides managed co-location services — i.e. we professionally manage other organisations' computers in our highly secure, highly reliable, and well connected data centres. We do this on a 24x7x365 basis.

For more information call ac3 on (02) 9209 4600, or visit <http://www.ac3.com.au/>.