



## **ac3 acquires SGI Altix 3700 supercomputer**

Sydney, 15<sup>th</sup> March 2005

The Australian Centre for Advanced Computing and Communications (**ac3**) announced today that the company had acquired an Altix 3700 supercomputer from SGI. The machine comprises 16 Itanium processors, producing sustained computing power of over 70 gigaflops.

“We are delighted to add this machine to our collection of high performance machines”, said Philip McCrea, ceo of **ac3**. “We’re particularly pleased that our two main high performance platforms now run the same operating system—Linux—which makes it easy for users to change from one machine to the other, if need be”.

The new Altix machine is based around a *shared memory* architecture. This means that each of the 16 processors has access to the entire 32 gigabytes of memory. The existing Dell supercomputer at **ac3** is, by comparison, a *cluster* of 187 independent computers, communicating with each other by means of a high speed switch.

This new Altix is a smaller version of a much larger 10 teraflop SGI machine that is being installed at the Australian Partnership for Advanced Computing (APAC) in Canberra.

“**ac3**’s new Altix is an ideal stepping stone for researchers wishing to use the APAC machine”, said Professor Lindsay Botten, an **ac3** board member and also a user of **ac3**’s supercomputing power. “Researchers can refine their models on the **ac3** Altix, and then submit them to the APAC machine, secure in the knowledge that their models will work”.

**SGI** Australia’s managing director Mr. Bill Trestrail welcomed the opportunity to continue its long term relationship with the team at **ac3**. “SGI continues to support researchers and scientists around the world by providing the compute environment most suited to handling the large complex data models involved” said Mr. Trestrail. “The **SGI Altix**™ server range is gaining increased acceptance by researchers globally, and Australia is no exception. With the recently released **Silicon Graphics Prism** to the graphics product line, SGI’s challenge is to help the same scientists and researchers visualise these large, complex data models in real time, and thus improve discovery times dramatically.”

For more information contact Phil McCrea, ceo of **ac3** on (02) 9209 4601.

### **About ac3**

**ac3** is in the business of looking after computers and networking equipment for other organisations. The equipment is housed in **ac3**'s secure and reliable data centres at the Australian Technology Park and at Global Switch. **ac3** is owned 57% by the NSW State Government, and 43% by 8 NSW-based Universities. See [www.ac3.com.au](http://www.ac3.com.au).

### **About SGI**

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SGI, also known as Silicon Graphics, Inc. (NYSE: SGI), is a leader in high-performance computing, visualization and storage. SGI's vision is to provide technology that enables the most significant scientific and creative breakthroughs of the 21st century. Whether it's sharing images to aid in brain surgery, finding oil more efficiently, studying global climate, providing technologies for homeland security and defence or enabling the transition from analogue to digital broadcasting, SGI is dedicated to addressing the next class of challenges for scientific, engineering and creative users. With offices worldwide, the company is headquartered in Mountain View, Calif., and can be found on the Web at [www.sgi.com](http://www.sgi.com).