



For immediate release  
April 18, 2008

## **New director to focus on strategic partnerships**

TORONTO – David Koa, a successful Canadian e-business entrepreneur with a long track record in forging collaboration and strategic partnerships, is joining ORION as Senior Director, Partnerships and Strategic Alliances.

David will lead the development of a new department that will focus on building strategic alliances with key organizations.

“This is a key position in helping us move to the next level as critical innovation infrastructure for Ontario,” said ORION President/CEO Phil Baker. “David will lead this new unit and help build our business and value-add for our connected institutions and organizations, and the researchers, educators and learners associated with them.”

“I am eager to begin working with ORION’s existing stakeholders and exploring new partnerships and collaboration opportunities with other organizations geared to research, innovation and education,” says David.

David will focus on enhancing the value of ORION by increasing the number of connected institutions and adding new value-added services. Among his priorities in the next few months will be meeting with key ORION stakeholders and prospective members to better understand their requirements; building the partnerships and strategic alliances department with new staff; and prioritizing new services to add to the existing ORION portfolio of services.

David brings considerable senior executive experience in the private sector. As a consulting General Manager for Interactive Media at Alberta’s Axia NetMedia, he led the development of strategic partnerships and new services in areas such as unified collaboration and communications, e-learning, and managed security. David was Chief Operating Officer for a TSX listed company selling technology solutions to the North American logistics industry where, during his tenure, its value increased by 50%. He founded and developed a successful Internet business, and as Vice President of Marketing and Sales, he helped develop e-Route Inc. from the start-up phase through to a successful sale to BCE Emergis.

### About ORION

The Ontario Research and Innovation Optical Network (ORION), a not-for-profit organization, is Ontario’s ultra high-speed research and education network which connects all of Ontario’s universities, most colleges, several medical and other public research facilities and a growing number of school boards to one another and to the global grid of research and education networks. Stretching 5,800 kilometres over 21 communities throughout Ontario, ORION connects over one million Ontario researchers, scientists, students, teachers and staff to critical infrastructure for research, education and innovation. Learn more at [www.orion.on.ca](http://www.orion.on.ca).

- 30 -

### Media Contact:

Tamara Stoll  
Communications Officer  
ORION  
(416) 507-9860 ext. 224  
[tamara.stoll@orion.on.ca](mailto:tamara.stoll@orion.on.ca)