

## Connecting MaRS Discovery District to the global grid

### The Challenge

Canada is in a global innovation race as regions around the world compete to coordinate science, business and capital to gain a competitive advantage by sparking innovation and achieve more rapid commercialization of research. Advanced technology and collaboration are the tools that are fuelling this competitive drive.

### Background

Toronto's MaRS Discovery District was created to meet this challenge head on. Designated as the city's centre of innovation, MaRS has quickly become a phenomenal success story. As gateway to Canada's largest concentration of scientific research, anchored by major teaching hospitals, the University of Toronto and more than two dozen affiliated research institutes, MaRS' state-of-the-art facilities connects the communities of science, business and capital and fosters collaboration among them.



### ORION Makes a Difference

Access to the expanding global grid of research and education networks is an important part of MaRS' ability to deliver on its mandate. Connecting to ORION allows MaRS to establish and sustain critical collaborative links with the global research and scientific community, and to support its advanced communication and collaboration technologies, including multi-site, high-definition advanced video-conferencing; virtual whiteboards and collaboration tools, webcasting and archiving, video links and remote participation for virtual conferences and events. It also means MaRS can engage in meaningful collaborations with ORION's connected institutions, including all Ontario universities, most colleges, several teaching hospitals and numerous research institutions, and to international partners through ORION's direct pipeline to Canada's CANARIE national backbone and to global R&E networks including Internet2, GEANT in Europe and APAN in Asia.

### Results

MaRS is able to weave world class collaboration and communications technology into the fabric of scientific discovery, assisting researchers and scientists to achieve breakthrough innovations that will fuel economic growth and change the lives of those who benefit from these remarkable achievements. Thanks to ORION, MaRS was able to multicast proceedings of the XVI International AIDS Conference in Toronto to the global grid of high-speed research networks, as well as to ORION member institutions in Ontario, allowing many thousands of people to view the proceedings from a single point of transmission. ORION connectivity also contributed to the MaRS Centre being declared winner of the Intelligent Building of the Year at the annual Intelligent Community of the Year Awards in 2006.

### The Impact

*"Advanced networks like ORION are part of the new critical infrastructure for global research and innovation, and it's important that MaRS connect directly with colleagues and researchers here at home in Ontario and around the world. This allows us to leverage significant provincial investments in landmark research-support initiatives. It will certainly help strengthen Ontario's position as a preeminent location for research and innovation."*

- Dr. Ilse Treurnicht, CEO, MaRS

