University of Michigan leads adoption of global technology to link Internet video and voice communications

Ann Arbor, MI - The University of Michigan (UM) is enhancing global teaching, learning and research collaboration by using a new technology to link high definition video and voice systems with research and education institutions in North America, Europe and Asia.

UM will soon make this 'NRENum.net' service available to all campus units and has already completed a successful pilot with the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business and Information and Technology Services. This technology enables high-definition video connections between people on the Ann Arbor campus, as well as in Australia, Europe, Asia and other university campuses in the United States.

"NRENum.net is a trusted, open, research, education, communityowned service that makes collaborative video and voice technologies easy to use. NRENum.net helps institutions register the IP devices they want reachable via the Internet," says Laura Patterson, chief information officer at the University of Michigan. "Once a device is registered in NRENum.net, it can make and receive video and voice calls simply dialled as a traditional phone number. This kind of cooperative technology could help the university reduce traditional telephone system costs in the future as well as enable advanced new services."

NRENum.net uses.E164 Number Mapping (ENUM) and applies it for research and education: ENUM is a standard protocol that simplifies the way voice and video calls are made over the Internet, and allows these calls to travel directly over global research and education networks. Researchers and others from various cooperating research and education institutions are able to use standard phone number formats to contact one another using both voice-over-IP (VoIP) and videoconferencing systems. ENUM translates those numbers into an Internet address, creating a quick, stable and costeffective link between telecommunications systems and the Internet.

"Having gained partners from North America, Latin America and Asia Pacific, NRENum.net has grown to a global, production-grade, community service in recent years," says Michael Nowlan, chief technical officer at TERENA (Trans-European Research and Education Networking Association), which coordinates the service. "As one of the key building blocks of global unified communications, it is TERENA's mission to coordinate and continuously enhance the service for the benefit of the entire research and education community in a sustainable manner."

Internet2 manages the technology in the North American calling area. Internet2 Senior Vice President Shel Waggener says, "Cloud based communication technologies are not incremental gains, but rather create low cost, easy to use solutions that revolutionize the way our universities collaborate. With ENUM and NRENum.net, we expect to make communicating via voice or video as easy as sending an email - connecting with people regardless of geographic distance or voice or video technology used by callers. We're looking forward to seeing the use of advanced IP voice and video grow as adoption of this technology spreads across our community."

UM participates in both TERENA and Internet2, which are cooperative communities of leaders in research, higher education and other industries, who collaborate through innovative

technologies. Other U.S. institutions that wish to participate in this free service should visit internet2.edu/video for more information.

Media Contact:

- *Dana Fair (danafair@umich.edu)*
  Information and Technology Services
  University of Michigan
- *Todd Sedmak (todd@internet2.edu)*
  Internet2
  PR & Media Relations Manager
- *Laura Durnford (durnford@terena.org)*
  TERENA
  Senior Communications Officer