



WCA eCLIC Disaster Management Lab developed at Carnegie Mellon Silicon Valley

February 22nd 2010, San Jose CA -- [eCLIC, the Emergency Communications Leadership & Innovation Center](#) (a special interest group of the [Wireless Communications Alliance](#)) will participate in the important [Disaster Management Initiative](#) at Carnegie Mellon University's Silicon Valley Campus and will jointly plan and develop the "WCA eCLIC Labs at Carnegie Mellon Silicon Valley". WCA eCLIC will collaborate both in selected research areas and in overall proposal and public policy development, submissions and supervision.

"We would like to help grow the community, create test-beds and pilot programs, and prototype novel applications to continue our established work in helping to create 'Connected, Protected, Educated Communities'," said Pat Lanthier, WCA eCLIC Chairman.

Authorized WCA eCLIC members will participate in development and writing of submissions with Carnegie Mellon and will help develop opportunities for students and faculty to work on projects of mutual interest and to participate in WCA eCLIC events, conferences, and policy deliberations.

The Disaster Management Initiative at Carnegie Mellon Silicon Valley brings together multiple groups and individuals to develop next generation solutions to improved coordination and collaboration between Citizens, Emergency Responders and Command Centers. The goal is more effective management of response and recovery of disasters and emergencies of various types and scale. Mobile devices, wireless sensors, context-aware/situation-aware information fusing, filtering and distribution, and fast communications infrastructure will play a major role.

"We have extensive experience co-leading collaborations to help create "Connected, Protected, Educated Communities" at local, regional, state, national and international levels. We now seek, with Carnegie Mellon Silicon Valley's very capable support, to exponentially grow our collaborations so that disaster response/recovery managers from all fields (OES/EMA, police, fire, schools, health, NGOs, etc.) are truly supported by the best leadership, policy frameworks, technologies, policies, and practices," said Lanthier. "Based on our experience, great gaps currently exist between what is possible and what is in actual use. Our collaborative work is really needed, now!"

“We are eager to be part of this crucial Humanitarian Assistance, Disaster Response and Emergency Services work, and look forward to collaborate closely with members of the Carnegie Mellon University family,” said David Witkowski, President of the Wireless Communications Alliance.

[Dr. Martin Griss](#), director of the Silicon Valley campus, agrees. “Carnegie Mellon is pleased to partner with WCA eCLIC and other partners of the Disaster Management Initiative to address these issues. Technology can and should be used to solve the pertinent problems of disaster management today. By bringing these various groups together, we can accomplish more good in an accelerated time frame.”

Carnegie Mellon Silicon Valley will be hosting a DMI Workshop on Friday, March 26, titled “Disaster Management and Emergency Response” to discuss the role of next-generation devices, communication and collaboration technologies, and will also sponsor “CrisisCampSiliconValley”, a goal-oriented bar-camp resulting in white papers, technology development collaborations, prototypes, road maps supporting communication among technologists and emergency responders, and frameworks supporting technology development, to be held March 26-28. Registration will open in late January, the event is free of charge.

(pictured are Pat Lanthier and Martin Griss)

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Background: Wireless Communications Alliance

The Wireless Communications Alliance is a non-profit business league founded in 1994 to provide education, connection, and community to the wireless industry. The WCA accomplishes these goals by hosting seminars/panels; providing networking opportunities; encouraging and supporting start-ups and entrepreneurs; and helping to build and maintain bridges between business and academia. Please visit us at www.wca.org to learn more.

Background: Carnegie Mellon Silicon Valley

Carnegie Mellon Silicon Valley is dedicated to educating its students to become leaders in global technology innovation and management and to performing innovative research that connects it to local, national, and global high-tech companies. Long known for its leadership in engineering and computer science research and education, Carnegie Mellon and the College of Engineering have established a natural extension in the Silicon Valley, one that integrates the rich heritage and resources of the Pittsburgh campus with the opportunities available in the highly innovative and entrepreneurial Silicon Valley. Offering graduate programs in software engineering, software management, information technology, innovation and mobility, each program provides the appropriate mix of technical, business and organizational skills critical to our students' success. With research that focuses on a suite of new technologies, Carnegie Mellon Silicon Valley is committed to creating and implementing solutions for real problems.