



COMPANY OVERVIEW

The Institute for Transdisciplinary eResearch Services and Technology (INTERSECT) has been established by a consortium of NSW universities and the NSW State Government to drive and coordinate the development, delivery and uptake of eResearch services and solutions. In developing a much needed concentration of eResearch expertise in the state, INTERSECT will coordinate the resources of existing islands of technical capability among its members and partners to identify, develop and deliver world-class ICT enabled platforms to drive the next generation of research and innovation.

Developing a coordinated approach to eResearch capacity building is critical to maintaining and enhancing NSW's status as Australia's leading research state and positioning NSW to compete favourably in the increasingly globalised and on-line world of research. Significantly more research is now being conducted across geographical boundaries requiring trans-disciplinary approaches to tackle complex global problems such as climate change and health. In this connected world, new generations of researchers are demanding faster computing, higher speed networks, access to increasingly diverse, dispersed and specialised data sources, and robust and reliable applications available to them anywhere and at any time.

INTERSECT has been established to provide the leadership, advocacy, capacity and coordination necessary for NSW researchers to more effectively participate in the larger, more expansive international research programs that will become the norm. As such it will:

- raise awareness and stimulate the uptake of eResearch technologies primarily at NSW universities but also across public and private sector research agencies;
- develop innovative, sustainable and commercial grade eResearch technologies / services;
- address critical eResearch skills shortages through the provision of training, professional development and career enhancement opportunities;
- promote high impact research outcomes through
 - the identification, development and delivery of valuable eResearch tools and services targeting priority state research areas and
 - more effective collaboration between NSW researchers and links with other national and international centres of excellence;

- achieve greater efficiencies through
 - the sharing of common infrastructure/technology platforms,
 - the facilitation of joint funding bids including with international, government and industry partners, and
 - the leveraging of co-funded projects with Platforms for Collaboration (PfC) and other NCRIS capability areas;
- provide a much needed national focus for the application of eResearch in the humanities, arts and social sciences;
- represent NSW interests and research leadership at the national level through direct participation in the various PfC Boards and Committees;
- act as the primary coordinating mechanism for the delivery of PfC agency services and other service providers such as ac3, to NSW research institutions;
- build a sustainable and enduring service-driven business model through
 - a core focus on delivering commercial grade services to its member institutions and
 - actively pursuing income diversification initiatives from day one.

INTERSECT has been established as a not-for-profit company limited-by-guarantee, governed by a Constitution that grants NSW research institutions eligibility as members. To date six universities have committed \$4.5 million in subscriptions and other NSW universities have indicated that they also will support the scheme. INTERSECT will receive \$2.8 million from the NSW Government over three years and \$5 million from the Commonwealth Government's National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS).

INTERSECT's three year target is to generate \$8m revenue per annum.

Other e-Research Centres analogous to INTERSECT:

[VeRSI](#) Victorian eResearch Strategic Initiative

[VPAC](#) Victorian Partnership for Advanced Computing

QCIF [Queensland Cyber Infrastructure Foundation](#)

SAPAC [South Australian Partnership for Advanced Computing](#)

TPAC Tasmanian Partnership for Advanced Computing (www.tpac.org.au)

iVEC on <http://www.intersect.org.au/whatisresearch.html>