



## **New Executive Director for SEPnet announces first regional conference**

**Date of activity:** Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2010

**Venue:** Universities of Kent, Oxford, Portsmouth, Queen Mary University of London, Royal Holloway University of London, Southampton, Surrey and Sussex, and Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Oxfordshire

Scientists from all over the South East will be sharing their research and news through the new video-conferencing facilities provided by SEPnet.

This event has been prompted by the arrival of the new SEPnet Executive Director, James West. James is a Fellow of the British Computer Society, having worked most recently for IBM as Development Operations manager in Connectivity Product Development at IBM's UK Laboratories near Winchester. A graduate of Physics at Oxford University, James holds a PhD in High Energy Nuclear Physics from Imperial College London, and also completed a Science Research Council Postdoctoral Research Fellowship based mainly at CERN before joining IBM in 1981.

James joined SEPnet in February, bringing new direction to the consortium. "The Physics departments around the South East each have unique strengths, and together produce some of the country's most exciting research. This conference is a chance for the research to take the centre stage, and for successful collaborations to share best practice."

The agenda is research lead, but also designed to enthuse all involved with the consortium. Local school children will be attending, to highlight the opportunities for them to engage with Physics and Professor Jim Al-Kahlili will be giving the key-note lecture on "Black Holes, Wormholes and Time Machines".

Charlotte Thorley, Director of Outreach explains "SEPnet has an invaluable resource in its staff and students. We're making their knowledge and enthusiasm as accessible to schools as possible to promote STEM careers and qualification, particularly in Physics".

This event forms part of a wider programme of and Physics outreach across the SEPnet consortium.

Notes:

- SEPnet (South East Physics Network) is a consortium of six partner physics departments at the Universities of Kent, Queen Mary University of London, Royal Holloway University of London, Southampton, Surrey and Sussex working together to promote excellence in Physics, supported by a five-year HEFCE grant of £12.5m.

[www.sepnet.ac.uk](http://www.sepnet.ac.uk)

- SEPnet Outreach aims to bring the excitement, innovation and knowledge of Physics to students, teachers and the public. Through events and activities delivered both jointly and by each of the partners, SEPnet will provide unprecedented access to and promotion of Physics in the South East.
- For more details about SEPnet contact Charlotte Thorley, Director of Outreach

[charlotte.thorley@sepnet.ac.uk](mailto:charlotte.thorley@sepnet.ac.uk) 07500 826151