

NEW DIRECTOR FOR IVEC

A leading expert in the application of high performance computing and computer simulation technologies, Dr Andrew Rohl, has been appointed Director of the Western Australian Interactive Virtual Environments Centre (IVEC) in Perth.

IVEC is a joint venture between Central TAFE, CSIRO, Curtin University of Technology, Murdoch University and The University of Western Australia. The Centre provides high performance computing and advanced visualisation capabilities to WAs education and research communities and local industries such as: mining and petroleum, medical training and research, architecture and construction, multimedia, education and urban planning.

Dr Rohl completed an Honours degree in Chemistry at UWA in 1987 before completing a Doctor of Philosophy at Oxford University. He subsequently undertook post doctoral studies at the Royal Institution of Great Britain, where he used supercomputers to solve important problems for the oil industry.

After the success of this work, he was awarded a Ramsay Memorial Fellowship and used high performance computing to design chemical sensors for the gas industry.

He returned to Perth in 1996, and joined the Applied Chemistry Department at Curtin University and continued using supercomputers to solve problems of industrial relevance through the Nanochemistry Research Institute and the AJ Parker CRC for Hydrometallurgy.

Dr Rohl, who is a significant user of both the IVEC and APAC high performance computing facilities, is a world-recognised leader in the field of computer simulation of surfaces and has more than 70 published papers.

Earlier this year Premier Geoff Gallop announced continuing Government support for IVEC of \$3.125 million for the next three years.

The Premier said he was delighted Dr Rohl had accepted the offer to become IVEC's Director.

"Andrew brings a wealth of practical experience to the position that will enable the IVEC Board to build on the success of the Centre's initial three years of operation."

IVEC was established in June 2000 and is the WA partner of the Australian Partnership for Advanced Computing (APAC). Through APAC, IVEC members access and contribute to the APAC National Facility, are involved in building the APAC Grid and participate in APACs education, outreach and training activities.

Dr Rohl commences in his new position on 25 October and will be based at IVEC's Bentley node within the Australian Resources Research Centre (ARRC), Technology Park, Kensington.