Adobe Systems and University of Nottingham Sign Master Agreement for Joint Research into Digital Documents and Web Graphics

Adobe Systems today announced that it has signed a Master Agreement with the University of Nottingham (UK) for joint research into all aspects of digital documents and Web graphics. This agreement is the culmination of many years of informal collaboration between the Advanced Technology and Acrobat Engineering groups at Adobe and the Electronic Publishing Research Group at Nottingham led by Professor David Brailsford.

The agreement forms part of a wider-ranging plan by Adobe to collaborate with a handful of top-flight universities in furthering its research agenda. However, the agreement with Nottingham is the first of its kind with a university outside of the USA.

"Adobe has had its roots in the research environment since it was founded" said John Warnock, chairman and CEO of Adobe Systems. "We continue to look to the research community for innovative ideas."

"This agreement reflects the quality of our work in the field of digital imaging and electronic documents" said Sir Colin Campbell, Vice Chancellor of the University of Nottingham, "I am very pleased at the prospect of research collaboration with a company of Adobe's reputation."

Among the activities scheduled for the first year of the agreement is joint activity in developing tools to enable interoperability between leading graphics products and the Web.

"We are pleased to be able to collaborate with the University of Nottingham in developing tools for Web graphics" said Tom Malloy, head of the Advanced Technology Group at Adobe Systems. "We believe that the Web community will benefit greatly as a result of this work."

Additionally, in support of the effort to deliver better interoperability for creating visually rich content for the Web, Adobe and other industry leaders have taken a proactive role in working with the World Wide Web consortium to advance an industry standard for Web graphics. The new standard called Scalable Vector Graphics (SVG) is expected to be completed by the end of this summer. With SVG, Web developers will have a more efficient way to deliver visually rich graphics on the Web.

"We have been involved since the earliest days in using the Adobe Portable Document Format as a part of our research" said Professor David Brailsford, head of the Electronic Publishing Research Group at Nottingham "we are now well placed to assist Adobe in moving forward to a new generation of documents which involve SVG Web graphics, structure and metadata."

The University of Nottingham is situated on a 330-acre campus and has almost 5000 staff and just over 20,000 students. It is one of the foremost research-led Universities in the UK and is consistently in the top five UK universities for income generated by research contracts. Professor Brailsford's Electronic Research Group, in the School of Computer Science and Information Technology, has an international reputation, built up over 15 years, in many aspects of digital document research.

About Adobe

Founded in 1982, Adobe Systems is a leading provider of graphic design, publishing, and imaging software for Web and print production, and the four largest personal computer software company in the world with annual revenues approaching $1 billion. The company builds award-winning software solutions for Web and graphic designers, professional publishers, document-intensive organizations, business users, and consumers. Adobe's products enable customers to create, publish and deliver visually-rich-images and documents across all print and electronic media. Adobe's worldwide headquarters are in San Jose, California, and the company's UK web site is located at www.adobe.co.uk.

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