

## State of the Nation

### Robin Arseneault, Network Manager, SurfNet

2014 was a very busy year for SurfNet, especially in the fall. Our newsletter this quarter can be read more like a 'state of the nation' report, as many things are worth highlighting. I will start local - the SurfNet Workshop 2014, held at the University of Calgary. We had over 100 researchers and students register, and a very well attended Industry Open House. This year we recorded the ever-entertaining Minute Madness session. You can view it here to learn what our member institutions, labs and students are researching:

<http://youtu.be/Y7UFQgalZRY>

In November, SurfNet had a booth at ITS 2014 in Dresden, Germany <http://its2014.org>. A number of demos were given from across the network and almost all of our partner institutions presented papers and/or demos as part of the conference: a testament to the cutting edge research our members do.

We also took part in the Canadian Energy Supply Chain Forum & Canada 3.0 <http://www.supplychainforum.ca>. For two days, morning to night, we



demos! There were a reported 900 delegates and 500 companies that attended. We even managed to host our own workshop on Energy Analytics. It was an incredibly busy few days but well worth the effort.

All of these activities represent our increased focus on knowledge and technology transfer, as we wind down the network and begin to look to "what's next" and "how do we get there?".

Last, I would like to make special note to the very talented and committed SurfNet Interns, for whom none of the aforementioned activities would be possible without their help.

Yuxi Wang (left) has been with the team for 6 months and hails from China. Edwin Chan (veteran intern of 1 year, right) is a Calgarian and rumored to be going on to a Master's degree this fall. Special thanks to you both!

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University  
of Saskatchewan  
Researchers recognized for  
their contributions to  
Science!

## A Successful Emergency

**Frank Maurer (University of Calgary); Bruce Gilkes (C4i Consultants Inc.)**

SurfNet is a five-year success story, and 2015 being our final year of the network, we would like to take this opportunity to discuss one story in particular. From the beginning, it was always our goal to structure the network in a way that facilitates great research getting into the hands of industry and the broader public. During one of our industry days, we had the opportunity to meet President and CEO of C4i Consultants Inc., Bruce Gilkes, and were able to move towards that vision.

Interested in the capabilities around surface computing, Gilkes imagined the same principals could apply to his business in training for emergency management and operations centres.

Together with Frank Maurer's lab and their SurfNet research, a collaboration began with NSERC funding in the form of an Engage Grant. They took the foundation of SurfNet research on software applications within multi-

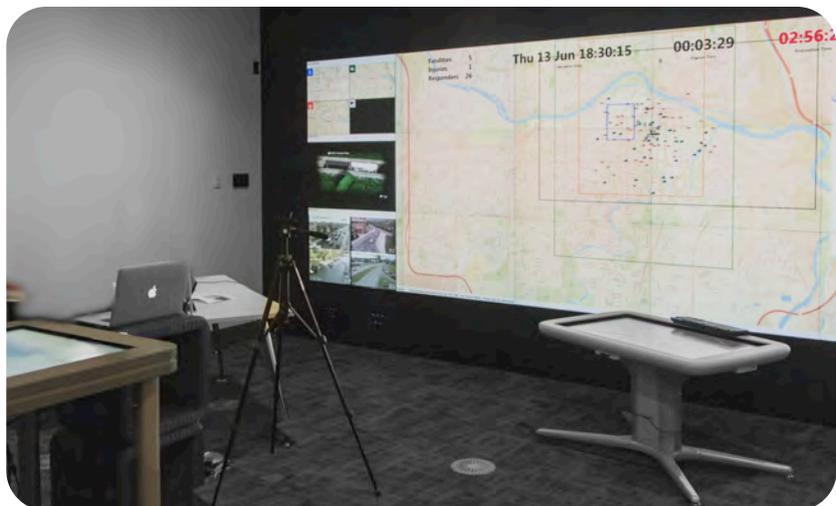
surface environments and developed a prototype to support emergency response training simulations. This 6-month partnership led to another partnership - the NSERC Engage Plus - to enhance the prototype capabilities even further.

After a year of collaborations, it was clear to both parties that their research could lead to something tangible and operable within the emergency response community. We are now happy to report that Emergency

Operations Centres (EOCs) of the Future is successfully funded under the NSERC Collaborative Research and Development (CRD) Grants for three full years.

More on C4i can be found here:  
<http://www.c4ic.com>

More on our collaborative research can be found here:  
<http://nsercsurfnet.ca/projects/129>



## SurfNet Updates:

- As part of our legacy work, the SurfNet website will continue to host our quarterly newsletters, workshop tutorials, and free toolkits downloads. Check it out!

## Some notable achievements:

- Carl Gutwin, Co-Theme Lead of SurfNet was awarded the Division of Science Distinguished Researcher Award, College of Arts & Science, University of Saskatchewan
- Regan Mandryk, University of Saskatchewan, appointed membership to the Royal Society of Canada's (RSC) College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists