

Innovation Centre Secures Money for IT Businesses

The Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre (SSMIC) is partnered with the National Research Council of Canada's Industrial Research Assistance Program (NRC-IRAP), to collaborate on a program that will provide funding for Small to Medium Sized Enterprises (SME) and enable them to obtain professional support services, thereby increasing their chances for success.

The program will provide funding for SMEs in the area

of Information Technology that are seeking to either utilize professional consultants or hire a student to assist them. The funding provides 75 per cent of the cost of the professional services or the student's salary. The eligible services are:

- Engineering design
- Design for manufacture
- Prototype development and testing
- Technical feasibility analysis

- Productivity enhancement analysis
- Development and implementation of management information systems
- Marketing assistance
- Sales development and support

To gauge the need for this type of program in the community, between now and the end of March 2006, the program will provide funding for five companies to engage

(Cont'd on Pg. 2)

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This monthly newsletter will bring you up to date on all the activities of the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
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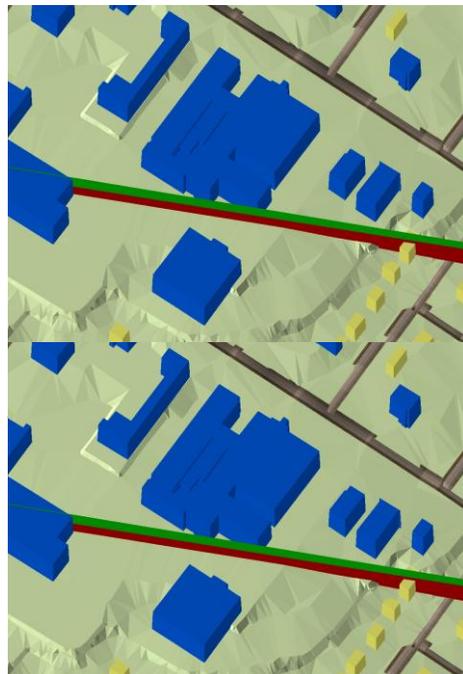
- **September 22 – SSMARt IT Awards!** Held in conjunction with Chamber of Commerce Take 5 Event. Join us and support your peers! New ICT Building at Algoma U. from 5-7 pm.
- **September 28 – IT Breakfast** Gran Festa Ristorante, 7:30 am
- **September 30 – TAG Luncheon** – Glyn Heatley, AUC and Allan Evans, MCGC

For more information about the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre, or any of our events contact:

Sarah Watson
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E-mail: swatson@ssmic.com

Build IT & they will come.

IT for jobs. IT for growth. IT for SSM.



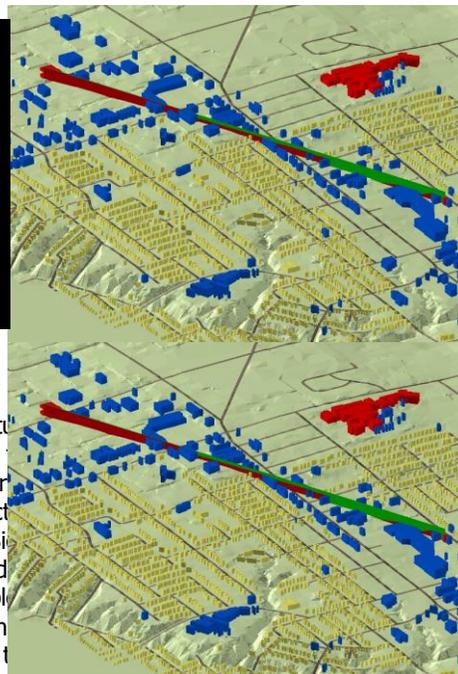
Line-of-Sight Analysis

wireless telecommunication solution in Sault Ste. Marie.

The project involved building on and manipulating the city's current data to a level that produced a complete workable 3D model of a specified area in

Sault Ste. Marie. The study that GIS provides is a very powerful and effective tool to explore and that with the current data, accurate studies can be conducted to make sound decisions.

The GIS project looked specifically at point-to-point wireless communication between eight specific



- Queen St.
- Group Health Center, McNabb St.
- Sault College, Northern Avenue
- Algoma U., Queen St.
- SSMIC, Willow Ave
- City Hall

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TAG Luncheons Resume

We have some exciting presenters launching this year's TAG Luncheon series. On September 30th, Glyn Heatley presents "Computer Gaming and Future Play", and Allan Evans with Jeff Weeks presents the "IT Renewal Project at Sault College".

Glyn Heatley is the Computer and Game Technology Promotions Manager at Algoma U. Additionally, he is the project manager of Future Play 2005 - the International Academic Games Conference on the Future of Game Design and Technology. Formerly the Computer Game Technology (CGT) Conference initiated and run by Algoma University College since 2002, Future Play is an international academic conference on the future of game design and technology. The goal of Future Play is to bring together academics, industry, and students to advance game design and

technology through peer-reviewed research, creative and experimental game design and development, and formal and informal discussion on academic and industry-related topics.

Jeff Weeks is the Manager of Network Services at Sault College, responsible for ensuring the streamlined operation of the College's information technology network. Together with Peggy Storey-Inksetter, CIO Sault College, Jeff was responsible for the IT renewal project. In September 2004, Sault College contracted MCGC Consulting to develop an information technology infrastructure renewal plan. Allan Evans is the principle consultant for MCGC. The project is now completed and Allan Evans said, "The project finished ahead of budget and on time."

An accomplished presenter and program developer, Allan Evans

is a part-time lecturer in both telecommunications and IT for two major Canadian educational institutions, and a results-driven facilitator of executive strategy forums.

Allan is a board member of the Canadian Telecommunications Consultant Association (CTCA) and a Past President of the Supplier Liaison Group of that organization. He holds a B.Sc from the University of London, (England), and a Telecommunications Certificate from Ryerson Polytechnic University.

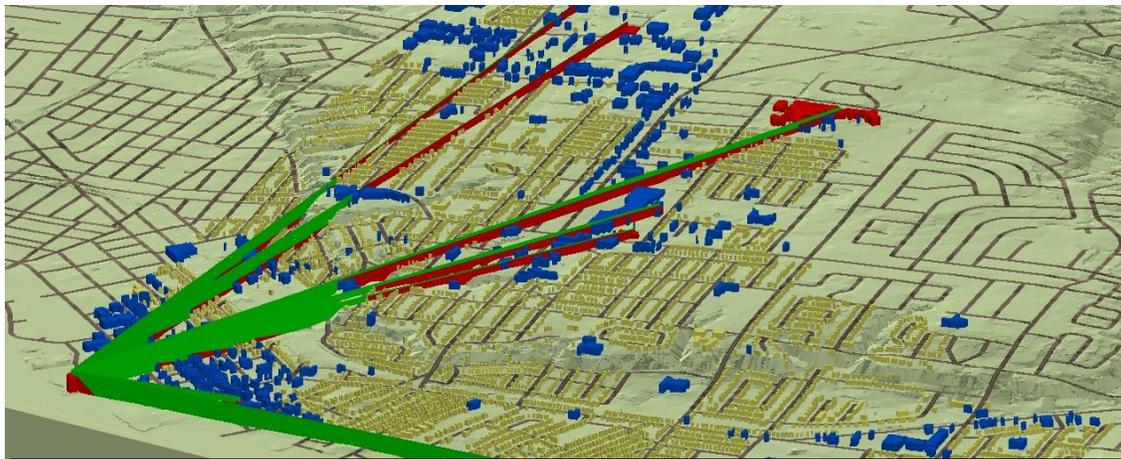
The TAG Luncheons run the last Friday of every month starting at noon at the Civic Centre. The Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre, AdNet and the EDC co-sponsor to provide food and refreshments for the TAG luncheons. It's a great chance to network with your peers in technology and learn something new.



New Face at the Innovation Centre

Good news - Jason Villeneuve has joined us as the newest member of the Innovation Centre team! Jason will be working with the IT SME Community and the Innovation Centre's Incubator Clients.

Jason will be a great addition to the team and brings direct experience creating business plans, developing funding applications and working with start-up ventures. He is moving from the Sudbury area to join us and has a passion for technology and gaming that will serve the SSMIC and the IT community well.



Line-of-Sight from City Hall

Point-to-point Cont'd...

To determine which buildings would meet the requirements, Jason obtained contour line maps of Sault Ste Marie's street centerlines, addresses, and building footprint maps from the CGC. With these maps on hand, Jason added and manipulated the data to include buildings and elevations, assisting him in determining the line of sight point-to-point transmission of

telecommunication devices.

There is a growing need for wireless communication throughout the city of Sault Ste. Marie for the efficient transfer of information. The first step in planning for the integration of an effective point-to-point wireless system is to build on the city's current GIS system and integrate land elevations and building heights.

With his complete GIS model in place, Jason was able to perform a Line of Sight Analysis for the targeted area and determine specific needs for the transmission towers. The end result was an accurate feasibility report on a point-to-point system for the specified area and a methodology report that outlined the study process.

Money Cont'd...

in growth projects with a maximum value of \$5000 each, of which the program will cover \$3750 (75 per cent). The SSMIC will determine qualified SME's and work with the businesses to locate skilled consultants based locally or outside the community.

"This program can play an important role in an SME's development," said Tom Vair, Executive Director, SSMIC. "The project funding allows an SME to access the expertise needed to help develop a competitive technology advantage or create a sound market approach. The SSMIC is pleased to have this offering to help local companies drive to success and to continue to grow the city's IT sector."

For additional information or to apply, contact: Tom Vair at 705-942-7927 ext. 3152 or tvair@ssmic.com.