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**Aston University is first Higher Education Institution in UK to deploy Converged Voice, Video and Data Network system**

*Aston anticipates increased role of TV and video for student education*

**UK, November 3, 2003** – Cisco Systems today announced that Aston University in Central Birmingham will deploy Cisco IP Communications technology for a single, IP-based voice, video and data system.

The Cisco Architecture for Voice, Video and Integrated Data (AVVID) will serve as the technology platform helping the university deliver an open, distributed, scalable and manageable infrastructure to accomplish its information and communication technologies (ICT) strategy. The new system will be deployed by global services company, Damovo, which is managing the entire project.

A particular feature of Aston's ICT provision has been the recognition that video and TV technologies have a significant complementary role to play alongside computer-based ICT. Video recording facilities are extensively used by Aston Business School in its unique Distance Learning MBA programme and by other schools in support of short courses and continuing professional development activities. The Cisco IP Communications system will replace the ageing analogue on-campus VCR/TV and Teletext network which can no longer cope with the substantial increase in demand nor the shared classroom audio visual equipment linked to the network. The Cisco solution will handle the expected significant growth in usage and make Aston a showcase for use of ICT in higher education throughout the UK.

"The University's four schools demand accurate, reliable and timely management information to be available with seamless integration to staff at all levels", said Guppy Dhariwal, Director of Finance, Aston University.

The Cisco IP Communications system will help provide ease-of-use, reduce repetition and offer fast and secure access to centralised records improving management processes and planning".

Mr Dhariwal continued, "Design and implementation of a converged, high-speed voice and data network will give our students an enhanced learning experience helping them to access lecture material at anytime from any location. Students at Aston have already identified simple and more reliable access as a requirement. Not only will this become possible but students will also be able to enjoy access to live and archive video rich media throughout the campus."

Aston University, a research-led university, has around 1,100 academics, administrators and executives supporting approximately 7,000 students.

"We are delighted to have forged a relationship with Aston University at a time when the University's overall Internet/Intranet and TV communications are embryonic", said Andy Macleod, UK Education Sector Manager, Cisco Systems. "We are confident that the Cisco IP Communications system will enable many new applications to be launched providing levels

of immediacy of information and interactivity of use that will keep the University at the forefront of higher education”.

The Cisco products are [Cisco Catalyst 6500 Series switches](#), [Cisco 3550 Series Switches with inline power](#), Intrusion Detection Systems, Cisco Call Manager IP PBXs, Cisco PIX firewall blades, Cisco Unity unified messaging and 2,000 [Cisco 7940 IP phones](#)

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### **About Aston University**

Founded in 1895 and a University since 1966, Aston is an established ‘old’ University known for world class teaching quality and research and a graduate employment record that is second to none. Aston offers a wide range of degree programmes in the subjects covered by its four Academic schools: Aston Business School; School of Engineering & Applied Science; School of Life & Health Sciences and School of Languages & European Studies. All of the University’s academic, social and accommodation facilities are based right in the centre of Birmingham.

Visit Aston University at [www.aston.ac.uk](http://www.aston.ac.uk)

### **About Damovo**

Damovo is a Global Services company delivering world-class corporate communications. Through consultancy, design, implementation and management, Damovo delivers advanced solutions in the following areas: data and converged networks, mobile solutions, e-collaboration, voice enabled solutions, enterprise relationship management and managed services.

Damovo’s portfolio of solutions combined best-of-breed technology from the world’s leading suppliers.

Damovo has an international client list of over 26,000 organisations and employs over 2,200 staff. The company has an annual turnover in the region of €1bn and offices in 20 countries worldwide across Europe, Asia, the Americas and Australasia.

Principal territories for Damovo are: Australia, Brazil, Germany, Italy and the UK. In addition Damovo has operations in Argentina, Belgium, Colombia, The Czech Republic, France, Hong Kong, Hungary, Ireland, Mexico, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland and Venezuela.

Visit Damovo at [www.damovo.com](http://www.damovo.com)

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### **About Cisco Systems**

Cisco Systems Inc. (NASDAQ:CSCO) is the worldwide leader in networking for the Internet. Cisco news and information are available at <http://www.cisco.com>. Cisco equipment in Europe is supplied by Cisco Systems International BV, a wholly owned subsidiary of Cisco Systems, Inc.

