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PRIME MINISTER

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P J KEATING MP HIGH PERFORMANCE COMPUTING AND COMMUNICATION LINK

At our meeting today MITI Minister Hashimoto and I agreed that Australia and Japan will establish a high performance computing electronic data connection between the two countries. The initial capacity of the link will be 192KBit per second.

This initiative will provide a foundation for the development of broadband communications between Australia and Japan.

The network connection will allow close collaboration between Australia and Japan in new generation high performance computers. A working group of officials from both countries will be examining the further enhancement of the communications link to at least 2MBit.

That capacity would support software research and development in broadband and multi-media technologies and real-time simulation associated with industrial design of new components. This agreement will help ensure that Australia and Japan remain at the forefront of information technology developments.

We hope this bilateral connection will eventually become a building block for a more extensive high-speed data network linking other countries in the region.

Eventual applications for the enhanced research collaboration which such links can support include advanced climate modelling (including prediction of weather and global climate change) computational ocean science, superconductivity and linked testbeds for research into advanced multi-media applications such as simultaneous virtual reality modelling of 3-D spaces.

International communications links, such as this, are an integral element in the development of the Australian Government's national strategy on information and communications services and technology.

The initiative builds on existing cooperation between Australia and Japan in high performance computing and communications.

TOKYO
27 May 1995