



**DISCOVERY PARKS**

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## **Top International Knowledge Economy Minds to Meet in Vancouver**

*Discovery Parks sponsors AURP 2009 Annual Conference*

**Vancouver, British Columbia** – Over 300 international leaders of industry, government and academe are meeting in Vancouver for the Association of University Research Parks (AURP) 2009 Annual Conference sponsored by British Columbia's own Discovery Parks.

University research parks are considered drivers of a knowledge based economy, acting as incubators that bring researchers, academics and start-ups together. It is estimated that every job in a research park generates an average of 2.57 jobs in the economy.

"The knowledge based economy is responsible for almost a million jobs in North America alone, and many of those are based in research parks," says Mark Betteridge, Executive Director and CEO of Discovery Parks. "Research parks in British Columbia are operating at capacity, and for this province to weather the economic storm, more investment must be made to economic generators, like research parks."

The meeting will be hosted by the University of Victoria's Vancouver Island Technology Park and will focus on *Advancing Global Research Park Networks*. Topics to be discussed during the conference include the basics of building, filling and marketing research parks. Discussions will also focus on sustainability options and models for future growth.

The AURP 2009 Annual Conference will present British Columbian technology and research parks the opportunity to meet and network with thought-leaders from around the world. Delegates from research parks, governments, universities and industry from around the world will address current issues and examine models for continued growth and sustainability.

"The economic growth associated with research, science and tech parks is substantial," says Gregory Deason, President of AURP. "Through job creation, start-up company support, and research, science and tech parks continue to play a vital role in the world's economic recovery by providing new products, services and ways to do business."

The Association of University Research Parks Annual Conference will be held at the Westin Bayshore Hotel and Resort on October 21-23, 2009.

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For more information:

Mark Betteridge

Executive Director & CEO, Discovery Parks

P: 604.734.7275

E: [markbetteridge@discoveryparks.com](mailto:markbetteridge@discoveryparks.com)