

## Storage expert is first off the grid

By David Adams

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One of the world's leading authorities on grid computing has been named the inaugural StorageTek Fellow of Grid Computing under a sponsorship deal between the University of Melbourne and the US-based data storage company StorageTek.

As part of the agreement Dr Rajkumar Buyya will receive a grant of \$125,000 for a one-year fellowship, during which he will undertake joint research with StorageTek representatives into emerging storage technologies.

A senior lecturer who heads up the Grid Computing and Distributed Systems (GRIDS) Laboratory within the university's department of computer science and software engineering, Buyya says the recognition is a great honour.

He says the sponsorship - believed to be the first time a commercial organisation in the field of grid computing has sponsored an academic - means that he, his students within the GRIDS laboratory and members of the lab's flagship Gridbus project will work with StorageTek consultants. Together they will develop "next-generation data and utility grid technologies that are going to power emerging e-science and e-business applications".

It will also give him "extra time to dream about disruptive internet technologies and make innovations to create their potential applications".

The head of the computer science department at Melbourne, Professor Rao Kotagiri, says the sponsorship recognised industry interest in research going on within the GRIDS lab.

"The nicest thing was that there were no strings attached," he says. "This could be beneficial for StorageTek if something really interesting happens in terms of patents - the patents would be done jointly."

Kotagiri says it is unknown whether the position will continue beyond this year. "It's not a small amount of money, especially considering IT is just recovering - they're not going to throw money away. It is impressive that Raj managed to convince them. It's a lot easier to do it in the US than it is in Australia."

Buyya says he was approached about a "technical exchange" with StorageTek early last year and has since met several times with StorageTek staff, including Charles A. Milligan, a StorageTek Fellow who until recently was its manager of advanced technology and is now in charge of managing university relations.



*Internationally respected computer science researcher Dr Rajkumar Buyya.*

Founded in 1969, StorageTek is worth about \$US2 billion and employs more than 7000 people in 32 countries.

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