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**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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**DR. ROBERT DROST OF SUN LABORATORIES NAMED ONE OF THE  
WORLD'S TOP YOUNG INNOVATORS BY *TECHNOLOGY REVIEW***

***Pioneer in Chip-to-Chip Communication To Be Honored at Technology  
Review's Emerging Technologies Conference at MIT***

SANTA CLARA, CA - Sun Microsystems Laboratories, the research wing of Sun Microsystems, today announced that Dr. Robert Drost, a Principal Research Scientist has been named to the 2004 TR 100, a list of the world's 100 Top Young Innovators by *Technology Review*, MIT's Magazine of Innovation.

Chosen by the editors of *Technology Review* and an elite panel of judges, the TR100 consists of 100 individuals under age 35 whose innovative work in technology has a profound impact on today's world. This year's nominees are recognized for their contributions in transforming the nature of technology and business in industries such as biotechnology and medicine, computing, and nanotechnology.

"I'm thrilled that my work and the work of my team at Sun Labs has been recognized by *Technology Review*, and to find myself on a list with so many great innovators," Dr. Drost said. "I love what I do, and the environment at Sun Labs that allows me to pursue a technology that I believe could be a tremendous advance in computing and for science overall."

Dr. Drost leads the study of a new chip-to-chip communication technology called "Proximity Communication" at Sun Labs. Proximity Communication technology promises to radically change the performance of computers by allowing the transmission of terabytes of data per second -- about 100 times faster than the limits of today's technology.

This innovation would enable next-generation supercomputers to greatly boost performance of data-intensive applications such as mapping distant galaxies, simulating protein folding, projecting the results of medical treatments including chemotherapy, and mapping human genes.

In Proximity Communication, a pair of chips is positioned face-to-face within microns of each other, but not necessarily touching. That permits transmitter circuits on one chip and receiver circuits on the other to exchange data at on-chip speeds using capacitive coupling, without being connected by off-chip wires, soldered connections, or other present techniques that slow things down.

In July 2003, Sun Labs won a \$49.7 million contract from DARPA, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency of the Pentagon, to help design next-generation supercomputers. Sun's Proximity Communication innovation was central to DARPA's decision to fund Sun over other major competitors.

"Being named to the TR100 is an honor Dr. Drost really deserves," said Glenn Edens, senior vice president and director of Sun Labs. "Proximity Communication promises to radically improve computer performance and change how computers are built and used, and thanks to Dr. Drost's work, we're making rapid progress in the field. This project is a prime example of the industry-leading research and development underway at Sun Labs, and the focus of the people we have here to invent the future of network computing."

Dr. Drost will be honored September 29 - 30 at Technology Review's Emerging Technologies Conference at MIT. The event features keynotes, panels and breakout discussions on the transformative technological innovations that have the potential to fuel new economic growth and dramatically change the future.

For more information on Dr. Drost's Proximity Communications research, please visit the Sun Laboratories website at <http://research.sun.com/>.

#### About Sun Microsystems

Since its inception in 1982, a singular vision - "The Network Is The Computer" - has propelled Sun Microsystems, Inc. (Nasdaq: SUNW) to its position as a leading provider of industrial-strength hardware, software and services that make the Net work. Sun can be found in more than 100 countries and on the World Wide Web at <http://sun.com>.

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