

News Release



Nortel Networks Kidz Online
1943 Isaac Newton Square
Suite 200
Reston, VA 20190

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Contact: Joel Holland
Phone: (571) 203-8990 ext. 322

Upcoming Rare Astronomical Event Profiled in Live Program

Reston, VA –NASA’s Center for Distance Learning and Nortel Networks Kidz Online (NNKOL) today announced they will hold a live webcast on Wednesday May 5 at 12:00 Noon ET to explain the upcoming Venus transit of the sun.

This free Internet delivered program can be viewed through your web browser by visiting www.nnkol.org/venustransits.

The upcoming transit will occur on June 8, 2004. Venus will cross the Sun's disc for about seven hours, an event not seen since 1882. In preparation for these upcoming Venus Transits, the NASA CDL and NNKOL have joined forces to create and distribute online resources. A series of events and activities are already occurring and more planned leading up to and during the Transits. During the webcast, the two organizations will explain the phenomena and describe the online resources available for educator, student and general public use leading up to the June event.

Chris Giersch, Program Manager of NASA CONNECT states, “NASA Langley’s Center for Distance Learning is excited about working with Nortel Networks’ Kidz Online on this web cast to support the many Venus Transit learning activities developed by NASA Langley’s Center for Distance Learning and Goddard Space Flight Center’s Sun-Earth Connection Education Forum.” For information on the NASA CONNECT program “The Venus Transit,” visit <http://connect.larc.nasa.gov>. The Sun-Earth Day 2004 Venus Transit is available at <http://sunearthday.nasa.gov>

Cathy Reid, Educational Consultant for NNKOL will co-host the program with Paul Mortfield, the BackYard Astronmer. Their guests from NASA/CDL will include Dr. David Crisp, Senior Research Scientist, JPL and Dr. Sten Odenwald - Astronomer - NASA, Sun-Earth Connection Education Forum.

The Center for Distance Learning is an educational partnership formed by Christopher Newport University and NASA Langley’s Office of Education. It is an integral part of NASA’s Integrated Distance Learning Network. CDL enhances grade K-16 curriculums by providing educators with free multimedia instructional programs.

NNKOL is a non-profit digital educational service. From its Digital Studio at the Center for Innovative Technology in Herndon, Va., NNKOL helps students and teachers increase their knowledge of the rapidly changing world of technology. Nortel Networks, the signature sponsor of Kidz Online, is providing the optical network hardware that enables millions of students and teachers to remotely access the programs and services of the organization. Learn more at www.nnkol.org.

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