



*****PRESS RELEASE*****Friday 21 October 2005

Galway resident nominated for top internet award

John Breslin, a researcher at the Digital Enterprise Research Institute at NUI Galway, has just been nominated by the Irish Internet Association (IIA) for a prestigious national “Net Visionary Award” in the area of “Social Contribution”. The award recognises outstanding achievements in applying Internet technology for the betterment of all segments of Irish society.

John is a native of Co Clare but has been working at NUI Galway for 5 years. John works at the high tech Digital Enterprise Research Institute which is developing the next generation of smart internet technology – the Semantic Web.

He recently set up “Wiki Ireland” (www.wiki.ie) which is an open community website intended to help preserve Irish culture and heritage. At Wiki Ireland anyone can log on and add content about Irish Folklore, history and culture. According to John;

“There is so much cultural knowledge, history, and stories out there, but most of it actually resides in people’s heads. There is a real danger that with the passing of older generations, this knowledge will be lost forever. Wiki Ireland will allow anyone at all to log on to the site and write up their particular story. It’s a simple easy and very democratic way of publishing and preserving our unique cultural heritage.”

John is the founder of Boards.ie one of the most popular internet discussion forums in Ireland. His particular area of research concerns how this next generation of internet technology can be applied for socially inclusive and community related activities. The IIA Awards will take place on 17th November in Clontarf Castle, Dublin.

For further information, please contact Brian Cummins on 091 495180 or brian.cummins@deri.org

*****ENDS*****

Notes for Editors:

The Irish Internet Association (IIA) is the professional body for those conducting business via the Internet from Ireland.

DERI (Digital Enterprise Research Institute) is the largest research organisation in the world developing the next generation of internet technology – the Semantic Web. DERI is a Science Foundation Ireland funded Centre for Science and Engineering Technology (CSET).

The Semantic Web is a machine readable version of the web. Currently when you search the web, YOU have to filter the search results and decide what is relevant. The Semantic Web will enable more efficient searching, as the computer will do this filtering for you. Additionally this baseline technology will also power the intelligent transfer, sharing and negotiation of information between computer systems.