



# PRESS RELEASE

## UK Education Travelling at the Speed of Light

*Universities and schools use laser to carry High-speed Internet, Multimedia and e-mail*

**Surrey, UK, 26 June 2001** – Across the UK major educational establishments have begun adopting optical wireless laser connectivity solutions from leading laser/IR optical wireless infrastructure provider, Cablefree Solutions, to meet their extremely high demands for bandwidth.

University College London (UCL), Brighton College, various colleges and six schools in the King's Cross Education Authority Zone (EAZ) in central London have all adopted Cablefree's laser optical wireless technology. Other leading educational establishments and universities are rapidly moving over to laser technology as the answer to their bandwidth needs.

At UCL, two 100Mbps and one 10Mbps lasers are involved in the project linking four major college buildings and a variety of departments, including Economics, Geography, Medical Sciences, Administration, and the London Foot Hospital. Installed by wireless specialists *Airware*, the lasers transmit high-bandwidth data and Internet across some of London's busiest streets at distances of 200m or more.

At one of the country's top Public Schools, Brighton College, computer networks in five historically and architecturally important college buildings, up to 125m apart, are being linked across playing fields and other thoroughfares. Installed by a specialist computer reseller, the 10Mbps Cablefree lasers are carrying Internet and e-mail as well as other educational data traffic. Implementing laser has helped the college avoid the cost, time delays and disruption which installing fibre-optic cables across the campus would have caused.

In the King's Cross EAZ one leading secondary school and five top primary schools have agreed to share the costs of their own high-speed, high-bandwidth laser network for the

delivery of Internet and e-mails for both educational and administrative use. The secondary school acts as a central-hub service provider to the primary schools, and is equipped with a Gigabit Ethernet laser system, which links it with one of the main primaries. From there, five 100Mbps laser links connect to the other schools in the network. Although up and running, the network is due officially to 'go live' on 5 July in a major 'Grand Network Opening' ceremony.

At another London College, a Cablefree Gigabit Ethernet system links two LANs split between two college buildings over a distance of one kilometre.

"Universities and schools are extremely high users of bandwidth, even more so than major businesses," said Cablefree Director, Penny Lee. "If you consider an Internet class of 30 pupils all clicking onto the Web at the same time, as directed by the teacher, this places huge demands on any bandwidth delivery infrastructure. To cope, that infrastructure must be robust and have the capacity to deliver on demand. Our laser technology not only offers the bandwidth and speeds needed today, but also into the future with our 2.7Gbps free-space optical solutions for next-generation wireless networks"

**Visit Cablefree Solutions at Networks Telecom 2001, Hall 20, Stand G66.**

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**N.B. Both Cablefree Solutions™ and Cablefree™ are trademarks of Cablefree Solutions Limited. The graphical representation of buildings connected by beams is a Registered Trademark of Cablefree Solutions Limited.**

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