



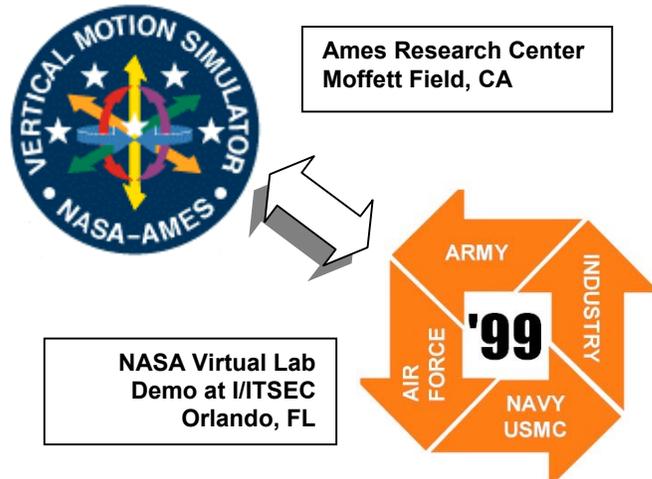
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IST/UCF Expertise Provides High-speed Link for NASA Labs

A high-speed communications network connection coordinated by IST and set up by the University of Central Florida enabled conference goers in Orlando to drop in on NASA Ames Research Center's Vertical Motion Simulator in California. NASA required the high-speed hookup to connect its Virtual Lab demo at this year's Inter-service/Industry Training, Simulation and Education Conference (I/ITSEC) with the simulator in the research center's Silicon Valley laboratory at Moffett Field, CA.

UCF is one of only five universities in Florida having access to the very high speed Backbone Network Service (vBNS) that provides Internet2 and Next Generation Internet connections for academic and government research centers. The 100 Mbs link from the university to the Orange County Convention Center was a first for UCF. The special circuit carried data over fiber optic cables at speeds up to 3,000 times as fast as typical Internet communications.

NASA's Virtual Lab demo shows how operators at remote sites can interact directly with the sophisticated software that runs the Vertical Motion Simulator. According to NASA, this high-tech simulator offers "real-time piloted simulation, realistic sensory cues, and the greatest motion range of any flight simulator in the world." Slower communications lines cannot keep up with the intensive data transfer requirements of such a complex application.



UCF's Bill Embach and UCF Computing Services helped in working out the details to link the Ames Research Center with the convention center. The plan used a NASA Integrated Services Network circuit from Ames to UCF via the vBNS. From UCF the signal continued directly to the convention center via a BellSouth circuit.

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