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## **USF Engineering Wireless Symposium Draws Internet, Technology Pioneers**

*April 21-23 Event Will Focus on Future of Global Wireless Communications*

**TAMPA, Fla. (April 14, 2010)** – Robert E. Kahn, one of two telecommunications experts recognized as the fathers of the Internet, and the University of South Florida’s own wireless communications pioneer Richard Gitlin will highlight USF’s 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Wireless Telecommunications Symposium (WTS 2010), April 21-23.

The three-day event will draw professionals and academics from the business world, universities and government agencies for a series of presentations and discussions on the theme “Global Wireless Communications – the Next Generation.”

All events in the symposium will be held Wednesday, April 21 through Friday, April 23 at the Embassy Suites at USF, 3705 Spectrum Blvd. Complete registration information can be found [here](#).

“Can you imagine living without the Internet or the high-speed DSL connection or without cell phones?” said Ravi Sankar, Executive Program Chair of the WTS 2010 and a Professor of Electrical Engineering. “USF students and the larger Tampa Bay community will have an opportunity to learn about the development of these essential technologies, and more importantly about the next generation of wireless global communications.”

Opening the event on Wednesday at 9:30 a.m., will be USF’s Gitlin, one of the university’s State of Florida 21st Century World Class Scholar & The Agere Systems Chair Distinguished Professor of Electrical Engineering. Gitlin, a former senior vice president for Bell Labs, is the co-inventor of the DSL and has played a key role in the early development of technology used in 3G and 4G wireless technologies.

Kahn will deliver the event’s keynote address at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 21. Kahn, who now leads the Corporation for National Research Initiatives, has been awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the A.M. Turing Award, the computing field’s equivalent of the Nobel Prize, for his pioneering work on the computing system that would become today’s Internet.

Kahn, an engineer, worked with Vinton Cerf, a computer scientist, in the 1970s to create a system of transmitting data between separate computer networks quickly and effectively. Kahn coined the term

“internetting” and the duo developed a common digital language for computers across networks that paved the way for one of humankind’s great technological revolutions.

On Thursday at 11 a.m., Richard J. Lynch, Executive Vice President and CTO Verizon Communications, will speak to conference attendees. Lynch, a patent-holder on wireless technology advances, has been at the forefront of wireless data solutions, starting with Cellular Digital Packet Data (CDPD) in 1995 when he led Bell Atlantic Mobile’s build of one of the largest CDPD networks in the country.

In addition to the presentations from industry leaders, the event will include workshops, research project and poster presentations for the latest technology under development in applied research and from undergraduate and graduate students.

The complete WTS program can be found [here](#).

“Wireless technology, which is driven by continuous advances in communications techniques, integrated circuits and software, is an incredibly transformational force in our global society,” said Tom Weller, USF’s Associate Dean of Research and a professor of electrical engineering. “Dr. Sankar and his team have done excellent work assembling a world-class symposium that will highlight historical and emerging topics of great importance, and we’re very excited to be hosting the WTS at USF.”

*The University of South Florida is one of the nation's top 63 public research universities and one of only 25 public research universities nationwide with very high research activity that is designated as community engaged by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. USF was awarded \$380.4 million in research contracts and grants in FY 2008/2009. The university offers 232 degree programs at the undergraduate, graduate, specialist and doctoral levels, including the doctor of medicine. The USF System has a \$1.8 billion annual budget, an annual economic impact of \$3.2 billion, and serves more than 47,000 students on institutions/campuses in Tampa, St. Petersburg, Sarasota-Manatee and Lakeland. USF is a member of the Big East Athletic Conference.*