

## **NATIONAL INVENTORS HALL OF FAME, INC.**

### **NATIONAL INVENTORS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE PAUL BARAN TO RECEIVE NATIONAL HONOR**

*Baran to be honored by White House with National Medal of Technology and Innovation*

Akron OH (August 27, 2008)—National Inventors Hall of Fame inductee Paul Baran, the inventor of digital packet switching, will be one of the latest group of recipients of the National Medal of Technology and Innovation. Baran will receive the honor from President Bush in a White House ceremony on September 29, 2008.

The National Medal of Technology and Innovation 2007 recipients were announced by President George W. Bush and Secretary of Commerce Carlos M. Gutierrez this past week. One of six individuals and two corporations receiving the award, Baran is known for his invention of digital packet switching, which provided the underlying technology that made the Internet possible.

Baran was at the RAND Corporation in the early 1960s when he designed a communication network to survive a first strike from the Soviet Union during the Cold War. He based his network on a mesh network able to reconfigure itself to bypass non-working areas. To create this totally decentralized network, Baran divided the communications stream into message blocks, or “packets,” sent along various paths to eventually be rejoined into a whole at their destination.

Packet switching enables the construction of digital networks with greater flexibility, reliability, robustness, and lower cost than circuit switching and now has become the standard way of building communications networks. Baran holds over 30 patents for his work in communications technologies.

Born in Grodno, Poland, Baran came to the U.S. at the age of two. In 1949, he earned his B.S. in electrical engineering from Drexel University and his M.S. from the University of California at Los Angeles in 1959. In the 1970s, Baran left RAND to pursue numerous independent and entrepreneurial ventures, including the founding of Metricom and the co-founding of Com21.com. He has received many honors, including the IEEE Centennial Medal and induction into the National Inventors Hall of Fame.

The not-for-profit National Inventors Hall of Fame is the premier organization in America dedicated to honoring and fostering creativity and invention. Each year a new class of inventors is inducted into the Hall of Fame in recognition of their patented inventions that make human, social, and economic progress possible. Founded in 1973 by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and the National Council of Intellectual Property Law Association, the Hall's permanent

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home is Akron, Ohio from where it administers its national programs, including Camp Invention<sup>®</sup>, Club Invention<sup>®</sup>, Invent Now<sup>®</sup>, and the Collegiate Inventors Competition<sup>®</sup>.

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