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H-P Officer Calls On Scientists To Unite to Help Fight Terrorism

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A high-level technology executive is calling for the scientific community to band together to use Internet technologies to combat global emergencies such as terrorism threats. Stephen Squires, Hewlett-Packard Co.'s chief science officer, on Monday will address the Global Grid Forum, a forum of scientists and technologists, in Edinburgh, Scotland to spur them into a call for action. "There is a tradition of the scientific community working together with governments to solve problems," Mr. Squires says. "And information technology is a strategic resource that could make the difference between life and death."

Mr. Squires says that grid computing -- Internet technologies that bind together different technology systems to create one dynamic and coordinated system -- should be used to fight emergencies. Grid computing can enable faster responses, since it allows for the quick gathering of information on the location of resources so they can be deployed more efficiently, says Mr. Squires. He notes that grid computing -- an emerging technology with a high-level of security -- is already being used in companies such as H-P, Palo Alto, Calif., as well as in a wide variety of scientific institutions.

Mr. Squires is among the first tech executives to call for grid computing to be used to build a pervasive infrastructure in order to combat issues such as terrorism. "It's important to use grid computing so that people can federate their systems to figure out where supplies are and how to get the supplies to certain places," he says. "It is the scientific community's opportunity and obligation to focus attention on moving the breakthroughs of grid technology in the service of people on earth."

To back up this message, Mr. Squires says that H-P will hold a conference for academics and government figures in early September to work together on the use of grid computing in dealing with emergencies.

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