



March 15, 2007  
For Immediate Release

Contact: Lewis Rumpler, ISM  
(509) 455-3005

Debbie Simock, Avista  
(509) 495-4174

**Avista to Dedicate a Significant Portion of VPnet to the  
Institute for Systems Medicine**

Spokane, WA – Avista Corp. (NYSE: AVA), has announced that it will dedicate a significant portion of the Virtual Possibilities Network (VPnet) for use by the Institute for Systems Medicine (ISM). VPnet is a dark fiber communications infrastructure that has capabilities to support the projects and applications planned by ISM.

ISM will have unrestricted access and use of VPnet for research collaboration for an initial period of ten years. The monetary value of this contribution is approximately \$1.3 million.

“Our contribution today is a signal of our unqualified commitment to the success of the Institute for Systems Medicine. The VPnet infrastructure will enable the kind of regional and global interactions that are the hallmark of successful biomedical research institutes. We are very pleased to make this contribution to the ISM and look forward to a bright future for the ISM and its collaborators,” said Scott Morris, president and chief operating officer of Avista.

Enabling ISM with VPnet helps develop, expand and invigorate the nation’s biomedical infrastructure, which is also a key initiative of the National Institutes of Health.

“Many of the scientific programs that the Institute for Systems Medicine intends to undertake will require inter-institutional collaboration and significant computing power. Both of these activities will be facilitated by this world class infrastructure. We are very thankful to Avista for making this generous contribution,” said Lewis Rumpler, chief operating officer of the ISM.

VPnet is a regional initiative, led by Avista, to provide a broadband gateway to the regional high bandwidth optical network that includes links to many of the region's universities and research organizations, Pacific Northwest Gigapop and other research and education networks.

**About ISM**

ISM is a newly forming private medical research institute utilizing systems biology, genomics, computational biology and the medical and academic resources in eastern Washington to conduct basic research leading to new diagnostics and therapeutics improving patient outcomes. ISM founding partners and sponsors include; Washington State University, Gonzaga University, Empire Health Services, Providence Health Care, the Institute for Systems Biology, the State of Washington, Spokane County and Avista Corporation.

**About Avista:**

Avista Corp. is an energy company involved in the production, transmission and distribution of energy as well as other energy-related businesses. Avista Utilities is a company operating division that provides service to 346,000 electric and 305,000 natural gas customers in three western states. Avista's non-regulated subsidiaries include Advantage IQ ([www.avistaadvantage.com](http://www.avistaadvantage.com)) and Avista Energy ([www.avistaenergy.com](http://www.avistaenergy.com)). Avista Corp.'s stock is traded under the ticker symbol "AVA." For more information about Avista, please visit [www.avistacorp.com](http://www.avistacorp.com).

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