For immediate release: July 22, 2005

Kurzweil's *Singularity is Near* to Debut at *Accelerating Change* 2005

LOS ANGELES, CA, July 22 - Will technology continue to accelerate throughout the 21st century? Now in its third annual gathering, [Accelerating Change 2005](#) at Stanford University, September 16-18, will feature forty five distinguished presenters discussing different aspects of this question, the majority of whom suspect the answer must be yes. The AC2005 theme, "Artificial Intelligence and Intelligence Amplification (AI and IA)" will explore the increasing intelligence and autonomy of our technology (AI), the increasing technological empowerment of human beings and their social, political, and economic environments (IA), and the growing convergence of these twin trends.

Keynote speaker and internationally-renowned futurist **Ray Kurzweil** will present signed advance copies of his upcoming book, [The Singularity is Near](#) (to be released nationally four days after the conference) to the first 200 conference registrants. *The Singularity is Near* carefully and extensively makes the provocative case for accelerating and increasingly human-surpassing technological and computer advances in coming decades, and anticipates a global "phase transition" circa 2040 where many forms of higher human thinking are exceeded by global computing systems. Kurzweil argues these systems will be seen not as separate from us, but as our increasingly personalized electronic extensions. If true, how can we ensure this will be an economically productive, socially stabilizing, and individually empowering transition in the years to come? What are the major risks to be avoided? How do we protect the freedoms of those not interested in this digital future? What could prevent or delay this scenario? Attendees will have ample opportunity to explore these issues in an extended *Q&A with Ray* session, moderated by science radio personality **Moira Gunn**, host of NPR's [Tech Nation](#).

Mr. Kurzweil is an inductee of the National Inventors Hall of Fame, a winner of the Lemelson-MIT prize and the National Medal of Technology, and the founder of nine very successful technology companies. His best-selling 1999 book, [The Age of Spiritual Machines: When Computers Exceed Human Intelligence](#) has been published in nine languages.

New ideas and valuable perspectives will abound as some of the brightest systematic thinkers of our generation gather to discuss and debate near and longer term challenges in improving human and machine intelligence. Brought to you by premiere sponsor SAP, the world-class speaker lineup includes **Tom Malone** (MIT Sloan Business School, author of *The Future of Work*), **Peter Norvig** (AI expert and director of Search Quality, Google), **Philip Rosedale** (2002 Time Inventor of the Year for *Second Life*), **Janna Anderson** (Author of *Imagining the Internet*), **Peter Barrett** (Microsoft TV, IPTV), **Esther Dyson** (CNET Networks), **Steve Jurvetson** (venture capitalist, DFJ) and many more change-aware thinkers.

The conference is produced by the nonprofit [Acceleration Studies Foundation (ASF)](#), which *Wired*'s **Bruce Sterling** calls "the first in the world to focus on the multi-disciplinary implications of accelerating change..."

Major sponsors include SAP, Clarium Capital, Draper Fisher Jurvetson, Linden Lab, *Wired* Magazine, *Seed* Magazine, University of Advancing Technology, Artificial Development, iRobot, KurzweilAI.net, Mozilla Firefox, Devon Technologies, and Six Apart.

Organizational sponsors include American Association for Artificial Intelligence, Santa Fe Institute, Association of Professional Futurists, New York Law School Institute for Information Law and Policy, Wikimedia Foundation, American Cancer Society Futuring and Innovation Center, Washington University in St. Louis School of Medicine Genome Sequencing Center, *Technology Review* Magazine, *Arts & Letters Daily*, *Accelerating Times*, Corante, *InfoWorld* Magazine, ITConversations, O'Reilly *Make* Magazine, Release 1.0, Terranova, Foresight Nanotech Institute, PUSH Conference, and Robonexus.

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