



MIT MUSEUM PRESS RELEASE

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**Construction Begins at MIT Museum
New Gallery and Program Space
Opening September 29, 2007**

CAMBRIDGE, MA – The MIT Museum recently began construction on a major expansion and gallery addition on the first floor of the Museum building, 265 Massachusetts Avenue on the north edge of the MIT Campus. Formerly housing a number of offices and some members of the MIT Architecture Department, more than 5,000 square feet of space is being converted to provide a new street level entryway, an Innovation Gallery featuring exhibitions on current science and technology, and a large scale electronic wall that will also support live links to research laboratories.

MIT Museum Director, Professor John Durant said, "With this major expansion, the Museum will establish a bold public presence on lower Mass. Ave. For the first time, we'll have enough space to feature highlights of some of the most exciting current research and innovation here at MIT. This is why we're creating the capacity for small, fast-changing exhibitions and programs. We anticipate a growing audience, and will also for the first time be open seven days per week, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m."

The first exhibitions for the new ground floor gallery will feature the MIT Media Laboratory's Smart Cities Concept Car project, recent developments in the use of remotely operated vehicles for underwater exploration, and some of the hottest research of MIT's life sciences and technology. "We're very grateful to the MIT alumni and Museum board members who jump-started this hugely important project," said Mary Leen, MIT Museum Associate Director: "It took the Museum just a little over a year to envision the new exhibition area and to raise the money." Previews for donors will begin in June 2007; the new Innovation Gallery will be open to the public on September 29, 2007.

“With the opening of the new ground floor, the MIT Museum's visitor services will grow and its store will be upgraded. Also, the Museum's capacity for facility rental will

increase substantially," says Leen. The City of Cambridge is supporting a revival of lower Massachusetts Avenue and is in the midst of finishing sidewalk, landscaping and roadway renovations surrounding the Museum. "From next summer on," adds Durant, "people from out of town will be able to find the Museum much more easily. For the first time, our visitors will be able to enter the Museum at street level; and when they get inside, they'll encounter vivid examples of the ways in which MIT researchers are continuing to invent the future."