

## PRESS RELEASE

### Dr. Michael Folk to Step Down as President and Executive Director of The HDF Group

Champaign, IL -- The HDF Group. After 27 years' stewardship of HDF, the last ten as President and Executive Director of The HDF Group, Mike Folk has announced that he will retire. Mike and The HDF Group are committed to finding a successor who will embrace the mission to advance and support HDF technologies and ensure long term access to HDF data.

HDF software was first developed in 1987 at the National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA) at the University of Illinois to address challenges in dealing with large, complex data in heterogeneous computing environments. In 2004, Mike and his team spun off from the University of Illinois and founded The HDF Group, a non-profit company dedicated to serving its growing community of users. "It was Mike's vision and leadership that provided the courage to spin off from the University of Illinois and form The HDF Group" says Quincy Koziol, Member of the Board and Director of Core Services and HPC. HDF soon experienced worldwide adoption, and is now used in almost every scientific community, and business sector. "His steady guidance through the explosive growth of HDF technology use has put it on the path to many more years of service to our user community", added Koziol.

The HDF Group has an enormous international client base and an equally diverse user community which they continue to support. "Mike started the company with a commitment to our user community" says Board Member and Director of Technical Services and Operations, Elena Pourmal. "Under Mike's leadership we expanded not only our customer base, which now includes scientific centers and companies in the US and Europe, but our knowledge of what it takes to deliver quality software. Without his personal commitment to software excellence and understanding the needs of the HDF user community, that would not have happened. Our organization is stronger as a result of the support and encouragement Mike has provided to us all these years", Pourmal said.

"I will miss having regular contact with our outstanding staff and the vibrant user community that we have worked with all over the world, but it is time for me to turn over the reins to someone else," Mike said. Mike will continue to provide his leadership to The HDF Group during this transition and is committed to a thorough and smooth process.

The HDF Group Board has selected Lantern Partners of Chicago ([www.lanternpartners.com](http://www.lanternpartners.com)) to conduct an extensive search for Mike's replacement. Lantern Partners is a national leader in Senior Executive Search for the technology industry.

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