



## **\*\*Chabot Space & Science Center names Wind River founder as interim CEO\*\***

*Oakland, Calif.* – Nov. 29 – Chabot Space & Science Center announced today that it has selected Jerry Fiddler as interim CEO. Fiddler is the co-founder, former CEO and chairman of Alameda-based Wind River Systems.

“Chabot is poised to be one of the top science education centers in all of California, for kids and adults” said Fiddler, a member of the President’s Advisory Board on Science and Innovation at the University of California. “This is a unique opportunity, at a unique point in the center’s history, to guide Chabot over that bridge.”

“With our 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary just around the corner in 2008, we’ve never been in a better position to face the future,” said 24-year Oakland Council member Dick Spees, chairman of the board which unanimously approved Fiddler’s hiring Wednesday night. “As Chabot aggressively seeks increased funding from its partners in 2007, it speaks very highly of this institution that one of the most successful entrepreneurs in the Bay Area is taking the helm.”

Fiddler started Wind River in his Berkeley garage in 1981 along with fellow Lawrence Berkeley Laboratories software engineer David Wilner. Over the next 23 years, Fiddler steered the company to the global forefront of the embedded software industry. Wind River operating systems have guided each of NASA’s Mars rovers, and the company flourished with operating systems for products ranging from digital cameras and DVD players to medical equipment and anti-lock brakes. Fiddler retired as Wind River’s chairman in 2004. He will commence his role as Chabot’s interim CEO immediately.

“Technology and science is an exciting combination,” said Fiddler. “That’s what makes Chabot so compelling – and so important. There’s not another institution that can lay claim to Northern California’s only full-dome digital planetarium, the only research-quality telescopes regularly open to the public in the Western U.S. and dozens of cutting-edge interactive exhibits ... all located in one of the most stunning natural settings in California.”

Fiddler succeeds Alexandra Barnett, an astrophysicist and science center professional who in September announced her resignation – effective Nov. 30 – after serving as Chabot’s executive director and CEO since March 2003. Barnett, who resigned in order to get married and relocate to Los Gatos, will maintain ties to Chabot as an advisor and working on a number of planetarium projects.

“I’ve had the pleasure of working with Jerry as a board member since 2005 and have been tremendously impressed by his fresh thinking and grasp of the realities of our business,” Barnett said. “Chabot will be in good hands and continue to move forward while the search for a permanent CEO progresses.”

Spees, noting a “very high level of interest both in the U.S. and abroad,” expects the hunt for a permanent CEO to continue “for six to nine months.” Fiddler, citing numerous “pet projects” down the road, said he will not pursue a permanent appointment.

Fiddler resides in Berkeley and sits on a number of corporate and non-profit boards in the Bay Area – including the Jazz School in Berkeley. Fiddler, a guitarist, has an undergraduate degree in music and photography and master’s degree in computer science, both from the University of Illinois.

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