Technology Strategy Board
Driving Innovation

Results of competition: Technology-inspired innovation - May 2014 - Information and Communication Technology

Total available funding for this competition was £500k from the Technology Strategy Board.

Note: These proposals have succeeded in the assessment stage of this competition. All are subject to grant offer and conditions being met.

Participant organisation names	Project title	Proposed project costs	Proposed project grant
D2 Network Associates Limited (lead) Staffordshire University	Cloud based Software Testing as a Service: Virtual Infrastructure Testing as a service (VITaaS)	£148,500	£122,425
Project description - provided by applicants			

Cloud based Virtual Infrastructure Testing as a Service (VITaaS) is an innovative concept, with a proven research and market gaps, where Virtual Environments (VE) can be tested on demand by customers, using a Cloud Infra-structure. it is a paradigm shift in an important overarching stage of the Software Development Lifecycle (SDLC) that is Software Testing, but as a Cloud Service (STaaS).

This new model promises to be cost effective & would increase the quality of clients VE, team cohesion & integration. Aim is to research & develop a working prototype for automated Cloud based VITaaS, also applicable to other Software applications.

The project shall bring a significant step in the current SDLC & Software Engineering methodologies, where value would be reated.

Key Objectives

1) Develop a viable business model
2) research, design & develop a prototype for Cloud STaaS which facilitates VITaaS with real world case studies
3) Address challenges associated with the proposal, such as Security, Interoperability, Scalability, collaboration
4) Explore other potential avenunes for further research innovation such as Software Deplyment as a Service (SDaaS) & ultimately Cloud based collaborative SDLC.

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GeoCento Limited (lead) K-Now Satellite Applications Catapult	Effective emergency response by combining social and other media with satellite surveillance	£145,432	£112,892
Project description - provided by applicants			

Satellite imagery is an extremely useful source of data for emergencies and potential emergencies. It provides large scale surveillance of conditions, but now at spatial resolutions down to 0.5m. There are some 140 earth observing satellites in orbit, representing a huge virtual constellation of surveillance capability, expected to double in the current decade. However, in many cases these data are not being used effectively for emergency response because of a reactive approach in the industry to image acquisition.

We propose to develop and define a pro-active approach to the tasking of satellite imagery in emergency response by the monitoring and interrogation of social media feeds as well as alerts from relevant organisations, so that the data can be rapidly accessed and exploited by emergency responders. The outcome of this proposed project will be a defined capability to optimise the use of satellite surveillance in a range of emergency situations. The market for this is considerable and currently under-served by satellites for a number of reasons which we intend to address technically and commercially.

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iProov (lead) Media Research Partners t/a The Media Institute	Project COMVIDIA: COrrelated Movement and Video ID Authentication	£148,984	£108,834
Project description - provided by applicants			

Project COMVIDIA creates an innovative new identity assurance technology, capable of being used as a distinctive factor in a highly secure multi-factor authentication solution, or to offer users a simple substitute for CAPTCHA-type mechanisms, which restrict system access for human-only entry. The technology combines extreme simplicity for the user with scalable security for the service provider, enabling a wide range of applications.

The project builds on insights gained by lead partner iProov in the course of innovating world-class 'ID as a Service' technology, and from new research and experiments in image processing using novel 'Eulerian video', a method of magnifying human features in order to detect characteristics of human liveness.

iProov will investigate image science and other aspects of pre-industrial research, and The Media Institute (a wholly-owned entity of University College London) will collaborate on validation of the approach, providing advanced usability testing.

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RPPTV Ltd (lead) Queen Mary Sonorize Limited University of London	Real-time synthesised sound effects cloud service -RTSFX	£149,335	£123,080
Project description - provided by applicants			

In sound design for film, television and games, the designer typically starts by searching a large sound effects library for the desired sounds. Alternatively, existing sound effects libraries can be replaced almost entirely with only a small number of lightweight synthesis techniques. This would eliminate the need for large storage and detailed retrieval systems, and avoid repetition and tedious manual customisation. Such novel tools can be deployed on the cloud, with intuitive interfaces, thus enabling the use of high quality sound effects across the amateur and low budget markets.

The real-time synthesised sound effects cloud service, RTSFX, is a project to test the feasibility of this approach. It will exploit novel sound synthesis research, and enhance it for use in a cloud service, to be evaluated by sound design specialists in the media production industry. It will gather all technical and business information required in order to assess the feasibility of this potential service. The business potential is compelling, since the project will demonstrate a disruptive cloud service for a globally used and purchased media resource.