

Community Organisation of Events in Communications, Mobile Computing and Networking

Steve McLaughlin

University of Edinburgh



Objectives

- 3 year programme of Community events:
 - Forge a sense of community by
 - Organising brainstorming events
 - Research intensive briefings
 - Annual summer school for PGs
 - Education day



Why do we need it?

- EPSRC theme day meetings held in early 2009 involving the larger communities of Computer Science (CS) – Electronic Engineering (EE) – Signal and Image Processing (SIP) academics several key issues were identified:
 - Lack of appreciation of the greater vision between CS – EE – SIP researchers with an interest in Communication Systems on the need to work in a constructive and collaborative or supportive manner.
 - Perceived lack of community spirit amongst communications researchers in constituent communities
 - Too much divergence of views from the communities when they review proposals and this is affecting the success rate for individual proposals and hence the overall funding attracted by this community.
 - Feeling that research in certain areas is driven by industry objectives rather than exploring more new, creative, exciting, fundamental “blue sky” ideas.
 - Lack of a national cohesive R&D communications strategy.
 - Limited interactions between the core EE-CS-SIP communities
 - Compared to Germany, China, etc we lack demonstration test-beds to trial new research ideas in a real world environment.



How do EPSRC see this network contributing

- **Developing leaders – summer school**
- **Shaping capability – priorities and direction**
- **Delivering impact – industrial members**



What outcomes do EPSRC hope to see?

- **Partnership**
 - Research community and EPSRC working together
- **Direction**
 - Discussion and decisions made
- **Priorities**
 - What is important to us



Management

- Investigators
 - Prof Steve McLaughlin
 - Prof David Hutchison – Lancaster University
 - Prof Barry Evans – University of Surrey
 - Prof Peter Grant



Management - Advisory Board

- Representatives of the Community
 - Prof Jon Crowcroft – Cambridge
 - Dr Maurizio Pilu – TSB
 - Dr Andy Lawrence – EPSRC
 - Dr Shaun Cairns – Alacatel Lucent
 - Dr Philip Haregrave – DC KTN
 - Dr Rob Morland – Astitium
 - George Pavlou – UCL
 - Prof Mark Beach - Bristol



What are we going to do?

- Annual Summer School for PGs
 - Aim to build an ICT community from the bottom up who understand the skill sets and capabilities that each of the various sub-communities can bring to addressing Communications and Networking issues.
 - Each day of this Summer School would pick a specific theme and allow the key UK researchers across all of the above communities to make students aware of issues, problems and methods that will be useful for the research.
 - First event in Edinburgh Summer 2011.



What are we going to do?

- Hold every 4-6 months co-ordinating brainstorming community meetings for the academics in "Communications, Mobile Computing and Networking" which also encompass linking into RF and Microwave Technologies, Photonics and Electronics.
- Aim to build, with active EPSRC staff participation, future "vision" and "roadmap" documents for our overall research community.
- Envisage holding 3 of these meetings in year 1 followed thereafter by 6 monthly meetings with each meeting attended by 30-40 academic and industrial participants.



What are we going to do?

- Organize a number of 1 or 1.5 day specialist research intensive briefings to address future burning topics.
- These would be theme based with a morning of “presentations” from recognized experts in the chosen theme subject area followed by a highly structured follow-on discussion to identify new research themes
- These themes would be actively discussed for forwarding up to the above vision meetings and then on to EPSRC SAT and consideration for inclusion in future planning



Breakout sessions

- Purpose: We will be arranging brainstorming community meetings. These aim to build, with active EPSRC staff participation, future “vision” and “roadmap” documents for our overall research community.
- We envisage holding 3 of these meetings in year 1 followed thereafter by 6 monthly meetings with each meeting attended by 30-40 academic and industrial participants. We need to agree potential topics for presentation to the community, potential topics could include:
 - **Spectrum: how best to use it?**
 - **What makes a network flexible?**
 - **Smart Grids and Communications**
 - **How do ICT and the green agenda impact in each other?**
 - **Photonic Systems in Communications**
 - **Quantum and Information Theory.**

These topics are not prescriptive, i.e. we are open to others are if we have consensus

Through attendance at these community meetings the EPSRC staff will gain an improved understanding of the current issues facing the academic community.

