

Project Co-ordinator Details

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Executive Summary – (Televirtual’s Highlights)

- WP1: Continued Liaison with partners on TX system. Finalised implementation of Mask-VR motion playback system with TX link between server and visualiser ends. Demonstrated hard-wired version of the system using a one-way data link, mimicing at Broadcast TX system.
- WP2: Following feedback on release of Alpha version ActiveX player, developed a second version to overcome stability problems, currently undergoing trials in-house.
- WP4: Continued work on basic capture an animation systems. Improved functionality of real-time capture and display.

1 – Overview

1.1 Objectives

<i>Objectives</i>	<i>Progress towards achieving objectives</i>
<p>Visicast will develop, evaluate and apply realistic virtual humans (avatars) to the generation of European deaf sign languages. The gesture description language and the associated real-time virtual humans will be used in the human-computer-interface of many applications. It will</p> <p>In the Applications Work Packages</p> <p>1. Enhance the status of Europe’s deaf citizens by improving their access to public services and entertainment, and enable them to develop and consume their own multimedia content for communication, leisure and learning. It will build applications for the signing system for:</p> <p>1.1 Television</p> <p>WP1: Television & Broadcast Transmission</p>	<p>WP1: Continued Liaison with partners on TX system. Finalised implementation of Mask-VR motion playback system with TX link between server and visualiser ends. Demonstrated hard-wired version of the system using a one-way data link, which mimics a Broadcast TX system. Carried out extensive optimisation of the link, collaborating with UEA to compress the link’s bandwidth. Lising</p>

1.2 Multimedia and the Internet
WP2 Multimedia and WWW Applications

1.3 Face-to-face transactions
WP3: Face-to-Face Transactions

It will in the Research Work Packages

2 Develop systems for the generation, storage and transmission of virtual signing.

3 Refine user-friendly methods for capturing signs
(WP4 Animation and Modelling)

4 Create a machine-readable notation to describe sign-language gestures (hand, face and body) which can be used to retrieve stored gestures or to build them from low-level motion components.

5 Use this descriptive language to produce tools that can translate from both speech and text into signing.
(WP5 Language and Notation)

with IRT to transfer the software to a “wireless” TX system. This system is the prototype for deliverable 4-1, and is thus in a highly advanced state of completion one month ahead of scheduled delivery date.

WP2: Browser Plug-in

- Continuing work to develop next generation browser-based display environment for Signing Avatar. Following circulation of the ActiveX alpha version, stability problems were reported, apparently arising from shortcomings in the operating system. A new version, using a different renderer, developed in-house to overcome these problems is currently under internal trial, prior to circulation among Visicast partners.

WP3: Transactions

- Work with UEA on training in use of Motion Capture System and the capturing of new / upgraded signs for Transaction System. Worked with UEA and IVD on the recording of sign sequences for use with the WWW application.

WP4

- Continued development of capture and replay system. Bug which prevented recording of long files corrected.

WP5:

<p>6 Trial and evaluate the Application prototypes (WP6 Trials and Evaluation)</p> <p>7 Ensure effective management, external communications and publicity for the project (WP7 Project Management, External Communications and Publicity)</p> <p>8 Ensure appropriate exploitation and dissemination of results (WP8 Exploitation and Dissemination)</p>	<p>WP6:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ WP7: ▪ WP8: Liaison with partners on production of publicity material for use at Technical Review, RNID exhibition in London and FP5 exhibition in Nice. Collated text and graphics – designed artwork and posters for external display. Co-operated with ITC and UEA on development of a presentation on Visicast project, concentrating on WP1 (Broadcast TV) for a presentation to the UK Terrestrial Digital Networks Committee, with a view to the adoption of Visicast signing for UK broadcast TV. Demonstrated the prototype TX link developed in WP1 and described above.
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1.2 Milestones

<i>Milestone</i>	<i>Planned date</i>	<i>Actual date</i>	<i>Comments</i>

1.3 Deliverables

<i>Deliverable Code & Name</i>	<i>Planned date</i>	<i>Actual date</i>	<i>Comments</i>
4-1 : First implementation of prototype demonstrated to Broadcast engineers committee	09.00	08.00	Although there is still work to do on there deliverable, the first implementation was in a sufficiently advanced state to be demonstrated to an independent pannel of experts one month ahead of schedule.

1.4 Deviations from Plan

<i>Causes and Description</i>	<i>Corrective actions</i>

2 – Contractual Arrangements

3 - Project Meetings (held and foreseen)

<i>Title</i>	<i>Data and Place</i>	<i>Main conclusions</i>

4 - Dissemination / Promotional Information**4.1 Conferences and/or Workshops attended/organised/foreseen by the project**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Number of persons attended + other information</i>
31. 08.00	Presentation and Demonstration to UK DTN Committee (see above)		Presentation at HQ of Channel Four Television engineers from BBC and Commercial broadcast adoption of the Visicast system for televised V Three persons from Visicast attending (TV x 2

4.2 Articles Published, Press coverage, development web sites, etc.

<i>Date/ Type</i>	<i>Details</i>
Aug 00	Televirtual Corporate WWW site being re-designed and re-launched with new sections dealing with EU research projects, including Visicast.

5 – Main results

<i>Description</i>	<i>Details</i>
	As described above under objectives

Table 6.1 Indicative Effort for the reporting period (Decimal Person Months)

	Work Packages	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	TOTAL
P No Short Name	Staff Name									
5 UEA	Steve Cullingford								0.49	0.49
	Ben Lambert									
	M Simper									
	Farzad Pezeshkpour	1.78							0.08	1.86
	Steve Pye								0.06	0.06
	Sanja Rankov				0.86					0.86
	Marcus Tutt				0.24					0.24
	Jamie Warren									
	J Clark									
	Mark Wells	0.23			0.29					0.06
	Total Months	2.01			1.39				0.69	4.09

Table 6.2 Indicative Effort for the reporting period (Person Hours)

	Work Packages	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	TOTAL
P No Short Name	Staff Name									
5 UEA	Steve Cullingford								64.0	64.0
	Ben Lambert									
	M Simper									
	Farzad Pezeshkpour	234.0							10.0	244.0
	Steve Pye								7.5	7.5
	Sanja Rankov				112.5					112.5
	Marcus Tutt				31.0					31.0
	Jamie Warren									
	J Clark									
	Mark Wells	30.0			37.5					7.5
	Actual Hours Total	264.0			181.0				89.0	534.0
	Planned Hours Total									
	Previous Acumulated Hours									
	Total Acumulated Hours	264.0			181.0				89.0	534.0