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 every 6 months
    - 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 – UoE
  - 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