



Edinburgh Network Technologies Ltd. and University of Stirling

Prog. No. 4132 – Local Management Committee Meeting (LMC 04)

The above meeting took place at 15.00 on 19/04/04 at edNET, Leith.

Attendees:

Mr. C. Cameron (Associate)
Dr. A. Kurt-Elli (Chair)
Mr. M. Kurt-Elli (Industrial Supervisor)
Prof. E. H. Magill (Lead Academic)
Ms. Inger Mann (KTP Consultant)
Mr. A. J. Mitchell (KTP Consultant)
Prof. K. J. Turner (Second Academic, Secretary)

MINUTES

1. Welcome and Apologies

The meeting welcomed Ms. I Mann who will in future be the KTP consultant to the project. Mr. A. J. Mitchell noted that KTP had assumed responsibility for older projects, so the KTP logo and references to KTP should be used in future.

Action Prof. E. H. Magill, Mr. M. Kurt-Elli

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising (17/11/03)

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved, with no matters arising beyond those covered in the agenda for the current meeting.

3. Chairman's Report

Dr. A. Kurt-Elli reported that Mr. C. Cameron had been working in recent months on making the Phase 2 developments operational. This should be in use by customers soon. He explained that the team had been forced to engage in 'fire fighting', but expected this to cease soon. Each team member will now be able to transfer specific knowledge and experience to each other for formal documentation. Over the next few months there would be work on the media server, VoiceXML scripting and bug fixes.

4. Associate's Presentation (Executive Summary provided separately)

Mr. C. Cameron gave a verbal presentation of his written report. In Phase 1, work was undertaken on basic functionality of the softswitch. In Phase 2, basic services (e.g. call diversion, hunt groups) had been added. Phase 2 is now live, despite operational and practical difficulties. An IVR (Interactive Voice Response) platform is also now live. The overall softswitch platform was now more stable, largely thanks to efforts by edNET. In the future Phase 3, more advanced functionality (e.g. Instant Messaging) would be provided.

Ms. I. Mann asked whether an updated Gantt chart was available for the Associate's work. It was explained that this had been produced for Phase 2, and that a draft had been produced for Phase 3.

Ms. I. Mann asked for clarification of the relationship between edNET project phases and the objectives as stated in the project description. Mr. M. Kurt-Elli agreed to provide this, in conjunction with Prof. E. H. Magill and Mr. C. Cameron.

Action Mr. M. Kurt-Elli

In reference to Mr. Cameron's MPhil, Dr. A. Kurt-Elli and Mr. M. Kurt-Elli commented that Phase 2 had been an essential underpinning for future edNET developments and was also an essential foundation for the MPhil. It seems to Mr. Cameron that edNET work relevant to the MPhil was at the bottom of his list of future work. Dr. Kurt-Elli remarked that a generic service creation framework had already been defined in the form of the OSS XML framework (NGOSS). Prof. K. J. Turner agreed to look into this to see the extent to which this might be applicable.

Action Prof. K. J. Turner

Dr. Kurt-Elli also observed that JTAPI and IVR could be an important foundation for Mr. Cameron's research into a generic communications service API.

It was agreed that edNET would explicitly plan service creation work into Mr. Cameron's future activities so that this can contribute to his MPhil.

Action Mr. M. Kurt-Elli, Mr. C. Cameron

Mr. A. J. Mitchell observed that KTP should be about transferring academic knowledge to the industrial partner. However the Associate should not be just a 'shuttlecock' between the University and the Company. It is essential that the company and academic supervisors meet frequently. Apart from MPhil-specific work, Mr. Cameron observed that he was gaining through generic knowledge and a different perspective on development. Dr. Kurt-Elli and Mr. Kurt-Elli observed that what Mr. Cameron had been doing was (like the work of all team members) an essential part of edNET's development work.

5. Company Supervisor's Report (provided separately)

Mr. M. Kurt-Elli presented his written report. It had been necessary for edNET to fix many problems in external software due to its non-compliance with the SIP standard. However the stability problems appear to have been overcome. The support and operations load on development staff such as Mr. Cameron is now decreasing, which will hopefully allow Mr. Cameron more time for MPhil-relevant work in edNET.

6. Academic Supervisor's Report (provided separately)

Prof. E. H. Magill presented his written report. Mr. A. J. Mitchell enquired whether any 2004/2005 final year projects at Stirling would be relevant to the ACCESS project. Prof. Magill mentioned that several such projects could be, though it depended on the student uptake of project proposals.

7. Financial Statement (provided separately)

Prof. E. H. Magill presented his written financial statement. The travel budget is rather underspent. Mr. A. J. Mitchell explained that up to 20% virement was permissible among budget heads c, d and e. The meeting agreed that 20% of the travel budget (i.e. £600 from budget item 4) could be vired for use under the equipment heading (i.e. budget item 5). The meeting further agreed that Stirling could spend £1500 of the equipment budget to obtain a PC for use at Stirling as a softswitch server.

Action Prof. E. H. Magill

Prof. Magill noted that the University had not yet decided whether to charge the project for the £500 MPhil fee attributable to Mr. Cameron.

Action Prof. E. H. Magill

In relation to future travel commitments, Prof. K. J. Turner suggested that it could be useful to edNET and to the Associate to attend the SIP 2005 event in Paris. This is an annual event that acts like a SIP trade show. An accepted speaker does not have to pay the (substantial) conference fees. Prof. Turner agreed to forward a recent call for SIP 2005 contributions to Dr. Kurt-Elli, Mr. Kurt-Elli and Mr. Cameron.

Action Prof. K. J. Turner

8. Consultant's Report on TCS Opportunities

Mr. A. J. Mitchell recommended that the Associate attend a Digital Future Workshop at the TTI 2004 conference, International Conference Centre, Edinburgh, 29th June to 1st July 2004. This is supported by the 'Scottish Cities E-Business Index' programme. The meeting approved the use of the Associate development budget for this purpose. Mr. Mitchell also suggested that one of the academic supervisors attend this.

Action Mr. C. Cameron, Prof. E. H, Magill, Prof. K. J. Turner

Mr. Mitchell mentioned that the Global Watch programme could provide overseas experts on secondment, and suggested that edNET consider this.

Action Dr. A. Kurt-Elli, Mr. M. Kurt-Elli

9. AOCB

None.

10. Date of Next Meeting

23rd August 2004, 14.30 (note change of time), edNET.

11. Reserved Business

None, apart from observing that there were no concerns about the Associate's performance.