

Canarie Funding Workshop

Videoconferencing and Collaborative Technologies

Toronto, May 23, 2003

McGill Ultra- Videoconferencing Group



McGill

John Roston, Director
Instructional Communications Centre
McGill University
john.roston@mcgill.ca

McGill Ultra-Videoconferencing Group

Members

- John Roston - Video
- Wieslaw Woszczyk - Audio
- Jeremy Cooperstock - Transmission
- Stephen Spackman - Programmer
- Centre for Inter-disciplinary Research in Music, Media and Technology (CIRMMT)

McGill Ultra-Videoconferencing Group

What we've done

- Transmit SDI broadcast video @ 270 Mbps
- Transmit DV video @ 25 Mbps
- Transmit multi-channel surround sound
- Executive videoconferencing
- Music teaching & collaboration
- Remote sign language interpretation

McGill Ultra-Videoconferencing Group

Funding

- Canarie ANAST & Cisco
- Canarie ANAST & Canadian Deafness Research & Training Institute
- Canada Foundation for Innovation
- Quebec Government VRQ Program

McGill Ultra-Videoconferencing Group

How to build systems for complex collaboration at a distance

- Point to point first, multi-point later
- Few partners – minimize admin. load
- Partner needing solution matched to partner with technical skills
- Canarie website to find partners like EU 6th Framework website

McGill Ultra-Videoconferencing Group

Our interest in human interface improvements

- Immersive, lifelike experience of remote locations and events
- Haptic & vibro-sensory channels for touch and environmental vibration
- High definition video for larger and closer displays of life size images

McGill Ultra-Videoconferencing Group

Our interest in demonstrations

- Remote collaboration and attendance – music composition, editing, performance.
- Teaching – music master classes
- Services – sign language, telemedicine, government services in remote areas
- Whatever meets a need and is fun

McGill Ultra-Videoconferencing Group

Desirable new CA*net 4 service

- Assist in troubleshooting last mile network problems within institutions.

McGill contribution

- Releasing software binaries (not source code) for free non-commercial use.
- May pursue DV video if there is interest.

McGill Ultra-Videoconferencing Group

Funding experimental vs solid, reliable (research grants vs research contracts)

- Grants to find a way to do something – may instead find a way to do something else.
- Contracts to make something that works into a commercial product or improvement.
- Allocation should reflect merit of proposals.

McGill Ultra-Videoconferencing Group

Research grants vs research contracts

Grants:

- flexible deliverables
- no matching funding

Contracts:

- specific deliverables
- 50% matching funding

McGill Ultra-Videoconferencing Group

Reducing administrative load

- Fewer topics and less detail on SOW– need, researchers, deliverables, timeline, cost
- Fewer steps and faster approval of SOW
- Fewer topics and less detail on reports –
Canarie staff report to Board on site visits
- More realistic expense approval & audit

McGill Ultra-Videoconferencing Group

Canarie strengths

- Funding despite minimal track record
- Great staff
- Help finding research partners
- Excellent suggestions re technology
- Excellent questions re useability

Merci. Thank you.

John Roston, Director
Instructional Communications Centre
McGill University
john.roston@mcgill.ca



McGill