D3 – EURASIAPAC Workshop in Australia Report

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1 Section 1: Introduction

Supported by the European Commission through its FP7 research funding programme, the EURASIAPAC project is aimed at improving the facilitation of ICT related research cooperation between Europe and countries of the Asia-Pacific region: Australia, Japan, New Zealand, and the Republic of Korea.

The consortium is coordinated by Fraunhofer (Germany) and includes Atos Origin, Sigma Orionis, Fraunhofer Japan, CSIRO (Australia), KIAT (Republic of Korea) and the University of Canterbury (New Zealand).

The third EURASIAPAC Workshop, the first in the Asia-Pacific, was hosted by Australia’s national science agency the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) with the support of the European Commission. (CSIRO) is Australia's national science agency and one of the largest and most diverse research agencies in the world.

The Workshop took place in the Main Senate Committee Room at Parliament House in Canberra on Wednesday 16 February 2011.

This document presents the D3 EURASIAPAC Workshop in Australia Report as requested by the “European Asia-Pacific Cooperation on ICT Research” contract, Grant Agreement n°: 248505.

The main Senate committee room during the EURASIAPAC Workshop
2 Workshop Objectives

The general objective of this Workshop was to identify relevant research topics to encourage cooperation between Europe and Asian-Pacific countries in the area of information and communication technologies (ICT). It was a key event to discuss in detail the similar challenges that all the participants have to face and use this occasion as an opportunity to formulate strategic cooperation and mutual collaboration.

3 Programme
EURASIAPAC WORKSHOP PROGRAM

8:30 Registration
9:00 Welcome and outline of Workshop proceedings
  Gary Morgan, Deputy Director, CSIRO ICT Centre

Session 1
Chaired by Dr. Alex Zelinsky, Group Executive, Information Sciences, CSIRO
9:10 Welcome and official opening of the EURASIAPAC Workshop
  Senator Kim Carr, Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research
  NSW Chief Scientist & Scientific Engineer
  Professor Mary O’Kane
  Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany
  Dr. Michael Witter

10:10 Morning Tea

Session 2
Chaired by Dr. Terry Cutler
10:40 EURASIAPAC project overview and Roadmap Survey results
  Key Metzner, Project Coordinator, Fraunhofer Gesellschaft

11:00 Introduction of the European Union’s Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7) and current and emerging ICT research priorities for Australia
  Panel discussion:
  Mike Lawson, General Manager, Competitive Industries Branch, DIISR
  Dr. Maurice Pagnucco, Associate Professor and Head of School of Computer Science and Engineering, The University of New South Wales
  Dr. Erich Prem, CEO, Eutsana Technology Management
  Dr. David Skellern, Advisor to the Chairman and CEO, NICTA
  Dr. Alex Zelinsky, Group Executive, Information Sciences, CSIRO

12:30 Lunch

13:30 Keynote Presentation – European developments in Networked Electronic Media
  Pierre Yves Danet, Vice-Chair of the Network Electronic Media (NEM) European Technology Platform

14:00 Joint Science and Technology Cooperation Committee Outcomes - Australia and New Zealand
  Lynne Hunter, Adviser, Delegation of the European Union to Australia
  Graeme Ronkin, Manager, Europe, Americas and Strategy Section of the International Science Branch, Department of Innovation, Industry, science and Research

15:00 Afternoon Tea

Session 3
Chaired by Prof. Simon Kaplan, Executive Dean, Faculty of Science and Technology, QUT
15:30 The Case for ICT Research in Australia
  Panel discussion:
  Dr. Chris Beare
  Dr. Ian Oppermann, Director, CSIRO ICT Centre
  Dr. Alistair Rendell, Deputy Dean, ANU College of Engineering and Computer Science & Associate Professor, School of Computer Science
  Dr. Mark Staples, Project Leader, NICTA
  Glenn Wightwick, Director, IBM Research and Development - Australia, and Chief Technologist for IBM Australia

17:15 Closing remarks
17:30 Networking cocktail session
18:30 Finish
4 Promotion

CSIRO engaged Event Management and Marketing specialists, SlatteryIT to assist with the program development, event management and promotion of the Australian EURASIAPAC Workshop.

A targeted invitation list of 327 senior level representatives was compiled by CSIRO, comprising primarily of R&D and academia, and a further 128 targeted senior level ICT industry representatives by SlatteryIT - to whom an HTML invitation to the Workshop was sent.

Subsequent reminder invitations with updated information were sent to this consolidated list as the program developed, along with telemarketing by SlatteryIT to key contacts, resulting in a total of 101 registrations for the Workshop. Of these, 79 actually attended on the day.

In the early stages, participation in the Survey was promoted by SlatteryIT via targeted mailings and a banner advertisement in their weekly e-newsletter, with a distribution list of over 5000. CSIRO also mailed approximately 500 contacts, and offered an incentive of the chance to win an Apple iPad by completing the Survey. Local industry associations, including the Australian Information Industry Association (AIIA) and the Health Informatics Society of Australia (HISA), also assisted by sending information to their members.

5 Audience

Delegate Breakdown

European – 7%
Australian – 93%

By sector:

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<tr>
<td>R&amp;D</td>
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<td>Government</td>
<td>18%</td>
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<td>Industry</td>
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6 Event Outputs

The day started with a short welcome from Workshop coordinator Mr Gary Morgan, Deputy Director CSIRO ICT Centre, who outlined the day’s activities and introduced the Chairman for the first session, Dr. Alex Zelinsky, Group Executive Information Sciences CSIRO. Dr Zelinsky delivered a brief history of CSIRO’s long association with Europe and then introduced Senator Kim Carr, Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research.

Senator Carr officially opened the Workshop and gave a speech outlining how science – ICT in particular – is pushing connectivity worldwide. He said the internationalisation of Australia’s research system is a key part of the successes this country has enjoyed.

He referred to recent Excellence in Research for Australia report which said that, when it comes to ICT, 91% of Australian institutions that were assessed were above, or at, world standards.

He cited as an example of international collaboration with big business, the opening of the IBM global research and development laboratory in Melbourne, Australia. IBM came here, he said, because that’s where they found the best skills, opportunities and local support.

Senator Carr sees ICT as a transformational technology and that investment in ICT research, and greater collaboration with international partners, are necessary for Australia to remain at the cutting edge of global research: something to which his government is committed.

He also threw a bouquet to Workshop hosts CSIRO: 'It's because CSIRO is at the forefront of ICT innovation that we are able to look with confidence to the future', he said.

The second speaker, Professor Mary O'Kane, Chief Scientist and Scientific Engineer for the Australian State of New South Wales, provided a perspective of the Australian ICT sector, detailing the strengths of Australian research, its initiatives, the key organizations, its infrastructure and funding sources. Prof O'Kane closed with a brief description of previous collaborations with Europe.

Next in the program was His Excellency Dr Michael Witter, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, who described several collaborative projects between Germany and Australia, and explained their relevance and the connections that they generated.

After the morning tea, session two began, Chaired by Dr. Terry Cutler, a member of CSIRO’s board. The first speaker was Mr Kay Matzner, Project Coordinator Fraunhofer Gesellschaft, who gave an overview of the EURASIAPAC project and its goals and mentioned that European challenges are global challenges.

Following in the agenda was the first panel of the day:

- Mr Mike Lawson, General Manager, Competitive Industries Branch, Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research
- Dr. Maurice Pagnucco, Associate Professor and Head of School of Computer Science and Engineering, the University of New South Wales
- Dr. Erich Prem, CEO, Eutema Technology Management
- Dr. David Skellern, Advisor to the Chairman and CEO, National ICT Australia (NICTA)
- Dr. Alex Zelinsky, Group Executive, Information Sciences, CSIRO.
During the discussion, which involved significant audience participation, several topics were analysed, including: the different ICT funding mechanisms between Europe and other countries; the importance of influencing policy makers to encourage collaborative projects and provide funding for them; and the opportunity to have input into the upcoming Eighth Framework Programme.

The panel also discussed innovation systems, in Australia and overseas, and the imperative to develop them internationally. Expansion to Europe was particularly favoured due to the many similarities and common links found by researchers with experience studying and living in both continents. Also, the panel expressed a desire to strengthen relations with Europe and increase European research in Australia, trying to expand collaboration from individuals to teams.

Before breaking for lunch, the panel talked about the necessity to attract more institutions and engage universities at an international level creating long term relationships.

The afternoon commenced with Mr Pierre-Yves Danet, Vice-Chair of the Network Electronic Media (NEM) European Technology Platform. Mr Danet presented European developments in networked electronic media and stressed the importance of worldwide cooperation to carry on with projects that involve connectivity, especially in the field of ICT.

Next were the outcomes of the Joint Science and Technology Cooperation Committee (JSTCC) for Australia and New Zealand presented by Ms Lynne Hunter, Adviser to the Delegation of the European Union to Australia, and Mr Graeme Rankin, Manager of the Europe, Americas and Strategy Section of the International Science Branch in the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research.

The speakers said Europe was a “like minded” partner in research and development and that the Committee allowed a centering in scale and focus in terms of fostering collaboration. They also highlighted the importance of having good communication between research agencies, not least...
because it simplified the process of developing a mutually agreed plan for future research: not only in ICT, but also in health, biotechnology, environment, energy and food.

In their closing remarks, they pointed to Australian participation in the Framework Programme and commented that projects like EURASIAPAC are opportunities to influence the scope of the future FP8.

The last session of the day was Chaired by Prof. Simon Kaplan, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Science and Technology at Queensland University of Technology. The topic of discussion was the case for ICT research in Australia and the panel members were:

- Dr Chris Beare, Chairman of Accede Capital
- Dr Ian Oppermann, Director CSIRO ICT Centre
- Dr Alistair Rendell, Deputy Dean of the College of Engineering and Computer Science and Associate Professor with the School of Computer Science at the Australian National University
- Dr Mark Staples, Project Leader NICTA
- Mr Glenn Wightwick, Director IBM Research and Development - Australia and Chief Technologist for IBM Australia.

Here were stated the benefits of research collaboration, such as providing “excellence, scale and impact” to scientific research.

Another interesting topic raised by the panel was the concept of complementary collaboration. The panel explained that putting together teams comprising people of different interests and different sets of skills can be very useful and beneficial because it allows the creation of a strong synergistic relationship, in contrast to the one achieved matching similar teams.

Closing the discussion, the panel concluded that collaboration allows bigger efforts and even bigger results and to get these results it is a researcher’s duty to work in and between teams. Also, international collaboration gives research global exposure and this carries many benefits for researchers and everyone involved.

Dr Ian Oppermann, Director CSIRO ICT Centre, made the Workshop closing remarks including: “The challenges we face are the challenges the world faces. Collaboration may begin at home, but it doesn't have to stay there, and one of the great outcomes of today was the obvious desire to work together and make more of what we already have”.

The day closed with a networking cocktail function.

7 Conclusions and Lessons Learnt

The Australian Workshop was well attended with over 100 key stakeholders, researchers and policy makers registered. The Workshop concluded positively with the following recommendations:

- Projects like EURASIAPAC are opportunities to influence the scope of the upcoming European Union Eighth Framework Programme.
• Investment in ICT research, and greater collaboration with international partners, are necessary for Australia to remain at the cutting edge of global research.
• Importance of influencing Australian policy makers to encourage collaborative projects and provide funding.
• A desire to strengthen relations with Europe and increase European research in Australia.
• The necessity to attract more institutions and engage universities at an international level creating long-term relationships.
• International collaboration gives research global exposure and this carries many benefits for researchers and everyone involved.