Living with Robots and intEractive Companions

Fact Sheet

Project Information

Funded under
FP7-ICT

Overall budget
€ 10 992 017

EU contribution
€ 8 200 000

Coordinated by
QUEEN MARY UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
United Kingdom

LIREC

Grant agreement ID: 215554

Closed project

Start date
1 March 2008

End date
31 August 2012

Project description

Cognitive Systems, Interaction, Robotics
LIREC is a research project exploring how we live with digital and interactive companions like robots or virtual agents.

LIREC aims to establish a multi-faceted (memory, emotions, cognition, communication, learning, etc.) theory of artificial long-term companions, embody it in robust and innovative technology, verify the theory and technology experimentally in real social environments, and provide resulting guidelines for designing such companions. Whether as robots, social toys or graphical and mobile synthetic characters, interactive and sociable technology is advancing rapidly. However, the
social, psychological and cognitive foundations and consequences of such technological artefacts entering our daily lives - at work, or in the home - are less well understood. The technology is commonly based on evaluation of short-term interactions or even first encounters, and limited to one specific embodiment. Research shows that the novelty effect, which may attract interest in the first encounter, quickly runs out and that people's preferences and attitudes towards the system change. Successful technology can only be delivered on the basis of strong scientific foundations, and with partners in psychology, ethology, human-computer interaction, human-robot interaction, robotics and graphical characters, LIREC will advance understanding of the concepts of embodiment, autobiographic memory and social interactions in the context of companions where the 'mind' might migrate to differently embodied 'bodies'. Experimental human-human and human-animal studies and longitudinal evaluation of the developed technology in social settings will support the development and delivery of mechanisms for verbal and non-verbal social interaction and communication; an autobiographic emotionally-tagged memory; mechanisms for detecting and responding sensitively to the user's affective state, motives and intentions; an autonomous cognitive-affective architecture and support for migrating companions. These will be combined in case-study long-life companions that will take social technology to a new state-of-the-art.

Fields of science

Programme(s)

Topic(s)

Call for proposal

FP7-ICT-2007-1

Funding Scheme

Coordinator Contact

Peter William McOWAN (Mr)
### Coordinator

**QUEEN MARY UNIVERSITY OF LONDON**

- **Address**: 327 Mile End Road, E1 4NS London, United Kingdom
- **Activity type**: Higher or Secondary Education Establishments
- **EU contribution**: € 945 077

**Website** [Contact the organisation](#)

**Administrative Contact**

Reuben Almeida (Mr)

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### Participants (9)

**FOAM - FOUNDATION OF APERIODIC MESMERISM vzw**

- **Country**: Belgium
- **EU contribution**: € 300 625

- **Address**: Koolmijnenkaai 1080 Brussel
- **Activity type**: Research Organisations

**Website** [Contact the organisation](#)

**Administrative Contact**

Nicholas Gaffney (Mr)

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**OTTO-FRIEDRICH-UNIVERSITAET BAMBERG**

- **Country**: Germany
- **EU contribution**: € 705 266

- **Address**: Kapuzinerstrasse 16, 96047 Bamberg
- **Activity type**: Higher or Secondary Education Establishments

**Website** [Contact the organisation](#)

**Administrative Contact**

Thomas Loskarn (Mr)

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**EÖTVÖS LORÁND TUDOMÁNYEGYETEM**

- **Country**: Hungary
- **EU contribution**: 

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<th>Organisation</th>
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<th>Address</th>
<th>Activity type</th>
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<td>EU contribution</td>
<td>€ 477 720</td>
<td>Egyetem Tér 1-3 1053 Budapest</td>
<td>Higher or Secondary Education Establishments</td>
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<td>POLITECHNIKA WROCŁAWSKA</td>
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<td>€ 657 980</td>
<td>Wybrzeze Wyspianskiego 27 50370 Wrocław</td>
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<td>CNOTINFOR - CENTRO DE NOVAS TECNOLOGIAS DA INFORMACAO, LIMITADA</td>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>€ 432 250</td>
<td>Casa De S Francisco Estrada De Assafarge 6 3040 718 Castelo Viegas</td>
<td>Private for-profit entities (excluding Higher or Secondary Education Establishments)</td>
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<td>INESC ID - INSTITUTO DE ENGENHARIA DE SISTEMAS E COMPUTADORES, INVESTIGACAO E DESENVOLVIMENTO EM LISBOA</td>
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