DSNet UK Steering Committee, University of Exeter - Meeting Number 3

Date: 10 May 2005
Present: Eddie Townsend (ET)   Xyratex,
                  Andrew Pauza (AP)   Plasmon
                  Sarah Adam (SA)   University of Exeter
                  David Wright (CDW)   University of Exeter
                  Barry Middleton (BM)   University of Manchester
                  David Jenkins (DJ)   University of Plymouth
                  Des Mapps (DM)   University of Plymouth
Apologies: Eric Mayes   Nanomagnetics

No	Description	Action
3.1	**Network Meetings**	

3.1 Network Meetings

Topical Meetings
It was decided that the next stage of the network would be to create smaller clusters of members in key technology areas with an aim to provide topical meetings for members of the network. It was decided that meetings in the following four areas would encourage an exchange of research and ideas;

Optical Data Storage
Signal Processing for Data Storage
Magnetic Data Storage
Networked Storage

These areas will hold topical meetings funded by the Network and be the driving force behind potential projects, collaboration and additional funding. All of the cluster meetings and their funding must be agreed by the Steering Committee.

Meetings in the areas of Optical Data Storage, Signal Processing and Magnetic Data Storage are to be held in July 2005. The Networked Storage topical meeting will be held in July or September.
The following people/companies are to be approached as invited speakers for the topical meetings.

Optical Data Storage
P3 Holographics (**CDW to contact by 20th May and ask for participant**)   CDW
Plasmon (**AP to contact by 20th May and ask for participant**)   AP
Peter Torok (**AP to contact by 20th May and ask for participant**)   AP
Dr AS Matharu - Nottingham Trent (**AP to contact by 20th May and ask for participant**)   AP

Signal Processing for Data Storage
Arithmatica - Tony Curzon Price (**CDW to contact by 20th May and ask for participant**)   CDW
Simon Bramwell - Philips (**CDW to contact by 20th May and ask for participant**)   CDW

Magnetic Data Storage
Rob Hardeman will be asked to give some thought about organising this topical meeting, and   ET
who might lead it with invited talks.
The request of the UK Magnetics Society for a joint meeting on Magnetic Data Storage should
also be taken into account when organising this meeting.
(ET agreed to contact Rob asap to discuss possibilities)

Networked Storage   ET
ET will discuss with colleagues at Xyratex to progress ideas on this possible meeting
(ET to formulate possible plans and invited speakers)

In addition to technical presentations, time should be made at each meeting to discuss funding opportunities and possibilities

Once a few invited speakers for each meeting have been arranged a mailing to all network members informing them of the topical meetings and asking for contributed presentations will be made.

(SA/CDW to mail all members by 1st June at latest)   SA/CDW

The venues for meetings were not really discussed in detail, but in principle they could be held anywhere (at company locations, at Universities, in hotels).
DM suggested that it may be worth meeting at a hotel the night before the meeting so people could network socially rather than within the constraints of the actual meeting. This decision would be taken after contact had been made with possible members of the cluster groups.

3.2   DSNetUK role and links with other organizations

ET suggested that the committee should think about how the network links and collaborates with similar organisations in other parts of the world.

DJ suggested that we provide a newsletter to all members and also that members who attend relevant conferences should write a summary for all other members in that field.

BM said that perhaps the network should wait to see how the topical meetings evolve and they could be a vehicle for links with others in industry/academia.

BM suggested the now defunct Triumph (Tape recording instrumentation users and manufacturers forum) might provide a link to more UK-based members.
An e-mail list for Triumf members should be available, and it was agreed that a circular to Triumf ex-members should be made
(SA/CDW to e-mail all TRIUMF ex-members)   SA/CDW

CDW said that the network had made an approach to join INSIC in the USA, which was greeted warmly. INSIC would have reciprocal membership rights.   SA/CDW
(SA/CDW to chase membership arrangements with INSIC).

ET suggested that IDEMA may be a good contact. He would get details of events and perhaps we could swap speakers. CDW asked if they could talk at the next DSNet General Meeting?
(ET to contact IDEMA to discuss possible reciprocal links and support)   ET

BM asked whether the network should become more involved with Europe. CDW stated that IMST was the primary network-type organisation in Europe, and DSNetUK has good represenation in all IMST activities (via CDW).
In fact IMST has been invited by EC IST and FET Programme Managers to a meeting in Brussels on 9th June to discuss possibilities for data storage research and Framework 7 research priorities. CDW has suggested that DSNetUK SC members attend this meeting also - ET and AP agreed to attend if possible.
(ET and AP to confirm to CDW their attendance at IMST/EC meeting on June 9th)   ET/AP/CDW

DM mentioned that Thales was getting more interested in Optical Storage and perhaps the network could approach Peter Girow to ask if Thales wished to join DSNetUK.   ET
(ET to approach Thales via Peter Girow)

3.3   Network Funding Applications

One of the aims of DSNetUK is to encourage joint funding applications involving its members.
At present we have no reliable way of recording any such applications.
A way of recording such applications via the website will be investigated.

One possibility suggested is for network members to approach the SC for a 'letter of support'
when making grant applications. Members should be informed of this possibility and a request
'button' put on the website that allows for the logging of funding applications and the
provision of a support letter.
(SA/CDW to modify website and include information on support letter in e-mail circular)   SA/CDW

ET agreed to work with Nigel Mackintosh to investigate available funding opportunities in DTI,
EU Frameworks calls etc in relation to all of DSNetUKs research topics. These will be
summarized and emailed to all members, as well as being discussed at the topical meetings.
(ET to contact Nigel Mackintosh and summarise funding calls).   ET

Future Events

EU FP7 IMST 'Lobbying mission' Brussels 9th June 2005
Two industrial SC members (AP and ET) could be funded (in addition to CDW)

DTI Photonics Focus Conference London, 22nd June 2005
AP and Peter Torok to give talks on optical storage (10 mins each), with 5 mins introduction
on DSNetUK by CDW

EOS Meeting on Advanced Optical Imaging, Imperial College, 29th June - 1st July, 2005
DTI has agreed to fund 4 members to attend this meeting

EPCOS Conference, Cambridge, 5th - 8th September 2005
Up to 8 members could possibly be funded to attend this meeting.

(SA/CDW to inform members of possibility of DSNetUK funding for them to attend above   SA/CDW
meetings and to place application form on web)

3.4   UK Data Storage Road Map/Strategy Document

CDW said the Road Map document should be delivered to DTI in the next month.
The current draft needs quite a bit of further work, e.g. - a section on Networked Storage,
plus a more detailed discussion of recommendations for future UK developments and
investment priorities.
ET agreed to provide a section on networked storage.
All SC members agreed to read and comment on draft - in particular on the 'recommendations'
issues.
(All SC members to work on finalising the draft - CDW to re-circulate current draft with   All
these minutes)

3.5   Website Requirements

The website was reviewed and a number of changes suggested as follows	SA
Des Mapps should be on the Steering Committee Page	SA
Swap the order of the navigation buttons. Should be DSNet Meetings, Calendar of Events and White Book	SA
Calendar of Data Storage Events Page - Go through the list of events and add new events	SA
Calendar of Data Storage Events Page - Conferences in Greece and Singapore Sep 05 should be entered.	SA
A page on funding possibilities should be added - requesting info on applications for funding by members, allowing members to request supporting letter for grant applications, allowing members to request funding to hold a topical meeting etc	SA
The Networks Meeting Page should have two links for each meeting (if applicable) to presentations and discussions. With a link to enable members to send their comments.	SA
A Vacancies Page might be added for members to enter relevant positions. This should be maintained regularly.	SA
Website links with funding opportunities and european initiatives should be out on the DSNet website (eg Cordis)	SA
A 'latest news' page should be added	SA
A monthly e-mail circular to all members should be implemented	SA

(S E Adam/C D Wright 13th May 2005)