Minister for Jobs, Enterprise & Innovation hails value of Localisation to Ireland

The Minister for Jobs, Enterprise & Innovation, Mr Richard Bruton T.D. has highlighted the value of localisation to Irish industry and commended the high quality of research at CNGL.

Speaking at the CNGL Localisation Innovation Showcase on 16th November, Minister Bruton stated that the sector employs approximately 15,000 in Ireland and is worth an estimated €680 million to the economy per year.

"Localisation employs approximately 15,000 people in Ireland and is worth an estimated €680m per year to the economy"  
- Minister Bruton

Commercialisation was very much the focus of this year’s Localisation Innovation Showcase. The event was attended by representatives from 53 organisations, for whom the CNGL showcases have become particularly fertile grounds in which to find new product offerings or seek solutions to specific industry problems.

CNGL is currently preparing proposals for a new cycle of research, development and innovation under Science Foundation Ireland’s programmes in consultation with industry partners and collaborators.

We intend to build upon the significant success in research and commercialisation of CNGL to date and to propel world-class innovation across the ‘Global Content Value Chain’ spanning content Creation, Curation, Discovery, Analysis, Translation & Localisation, Personalisation and Multimodal (mobile) delivery. We envision a framework for ‘Global Content Intelligence’.

Increasingly, organisations are realising that they must “give up the illusion of control” and engage proactively with the people, processes and technologies of the global content value chain without the traditional boundaries and roles of corporate/consumer stakeholders. We are currently conducting stakeholder engagement on this theme. If you are interested in participating, please contact us.

Read More
Partnerships and Commercialisation

CNGL Spinout Showcased at 2011 SFI Summit

Emizar.com to enable Fortune 500 companies to reduce costs and increase customer satisfaction

The SFI Summit is an annual two-day meeting for Ireland’s leading researchers to discuss and debate new horizons for science and society. This year’s event was particularly focused upon how the research community can best impact and support Ireland’s economic, social and reputational recovery. In line with that theme, CNGL researchers were on hand at the event to demonstrate one of our emerging spinouts that is expected to generate up to five knowledge-intensive jobs in the coming year.

Emizar.com is a CNGL spinout from Trinity College Dublin, promoted by Prof. Vincent Wade and Enterprise Ireland Business Partner Brian Kelly, transforming on-going CNGL research into a commercial offering that enables Fortune 500 companies to reduce costs and increase consumer satisfaction by providing superior customer care experiences. The spinout leverages cutting-edge CNGL technologies which fuse proprietary corporate databases and complimentary corporate assets with user-generated content to deliver real-time, personalised solutions.

At the SFI Summit CNGL Commercial Development Manager, Steve Gotz, and TCD Postdoctoral Researcher, Dr Alexander O’Connor, presented Emizar.com to SFI Director General, Dr Graham Love, and Sean Sherlock T.D., Minister of State, Department of Enterprise, Jobs & Innovation and Department of Education & Skills with responsibility for Research & Innovation.

“This is a defining time for academic R&D both within Ireland and the broader EU, particularly with regard to the need for impactful research”, said Gotz. “Emizar is but one example of how we are aligning our research programme to deliver not only commercially relevant products but also an economic return to the state.”

CNGL Researchers on Path to Commercialisation

€215k in funding secured from TIDA Feasibility Study Award

In December three CNGL research teams were awarded a combined €215k in funding to begin the process of commercialising their research, under the Technology Innovation Development (TIDA) Feasibility Study programme.

The TIDA Feasibility Study award is a joint programme, run by Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) and Enterprise Ireland (EI), designed to enable researchers to focus on the first steps of an applied research project that may have a commercial benefit if further developed.

The funded CNGL teams will be developing commercial prototypes in the areas of machine translation and translation memory integration, cross-site content personalisation, and multilingual customer care.

www.cngl.ie
Eva Szekely wins National ‘Thesis in 3’ Competition

Eva Szekely, a CNGL PhD student based in UCD, beat off stiff competition from 24 other PhD students from CSETs around Ireland to win the national Thesis in Three competition on 9th November.

Talented communicators from the 9 SFI-funded Centres for Science, Engineering and Technology presented their research in bite-sized chunks – three slides in three minutes. The audience of 300 people enjoyed a veritable communications master class at the Mansion House, Dublin.

Eva won first place in the competition for her presentation "Voices that Speak for You", which described her work on infusing emotion in speech synthesis.

Eva’s research aims to create expressive speech synthesis from audiobook recordings and then to personalise this to individual user needs. Eva has developed techniques that analyse the voice quality from open source audio books to detect different styles such as a cheerful, calm or forceful voice. She is then able to use this analysis to parameterise speech synthesis systems to dynamically produce speech in the required style. This will allow future speech synthesis systems to speak to people expressively in accordance to their personal preferences and the requirements of the content being spoken.

“As well as supporting speech synthesis for audio books, this research has great potential in applications such as speech-to-speech translation, human-robot interaction and support for those with speech impairments”, explains Eva.

Also representing CNGL at the national final were Hanna Bechara ("Recycling Machine Translation") and Wei Li ("Retrieval Rescued by Recommendation").

Eva was invited to deliver her winning presentation at the SFI Summit 2011 in Athlone in November. Many senior academics in attendance commented on the high quality of Eva’s content and delivery.

Yifan He wins LRC Best Thesis Award

Yifan made history earlier this year when he became the first CNGL student to complete his PhD viva, under the supervision of Prof Andy Way and Prof Josef van Genabith. His thesis is titled ‘The Integration of Machine Translation and Translation Memory’. The work focuses on three aspects: 1) translation recommendation and translation re-ranking models that can access high quality MT outputs in the TM environment, 2) a sub-segment translation memory and machine translation integration model that improves both translation consistency and translation quality, and 3) a human evaluation pipeline to validate the effectiveness of his models with human judgments.

The LRC thanked Symantec Ireland for its generous sponsorship of the award for the fifteenth consecutive year. Symantec’s sponsorship has made this award the most successful and longest running award in the industry, attracting a significant number of international entries.

Yifan He of CNGL has been announced Winner of the LRC Best Thesis Award 2011. Yifan’s win makes it four-in-a-row for CNGL students based at DCU.
700 Students to test their Minds with AILO 2012

Surge in interest sees annual increase in registrations of over 30%

The popularity of CNGL’s All Ireland Linguistics Olympiad appears to know no bounds. A rigorous marketing campaign, launched in September, has produced a surge in enquiries and registrations for the novel secondary schools competition. To date more than 700 students from 57 schools across 22 counties have registered for the 2012 season. This represents a 30% increase over 2011 figures.

“We are delighted that so many students will this year have the opportunity to sample the field of linguistics for themselves and to develop their own strategies for solving problems in fascinating languages from around the globe”, says CNGL Education & Outreach Manager, Cara Greene.

As well as appealing to language teachers, the competition is now attracting significant interest from guidance counsellors in schools, who appreciate the competition’s potential for honing students’ soft skills in areas such as problem solving and teamwork. At the IBEC/Institute of Guidance Counsellors Careers Day in Cork last month, the AILO stand was inundated with information requests relating to the competition.

Participating schools will host qualifying rounds in February, with the top 100 students selected to compete at the national finals of the competition at DCU in March. The four best performers at the national finals will be selected to represent Ireland at the International Linguistics Olympiad in Slovenia in June 2012.

The deadline for registration for the 2012 season of the All Ireland Linguistics Olympiad is 20th January 2012. Register online at www.cngl.ie/ailo

Register now at www.cngl.ie/ailo

CNGL Autumn Scientific Committee Meeting

CNGL held its Autumn Scientific Committee Meeting on 17th-18th November at the Science Gallery, Dublin 2. The meeting brought together CNGL researchers, management, industry partners, international collaborators and members of our Industry Advisory Board, to share their work and to plot future directions.

Day 1 featured presentations by PhD candidates and postdocs on the themes ‘Content Intelligence & Social—Analytical Annotation’, ‘Content & Social—Content Delivery’, ‘Language—Content Transformation’, and ‘System Communication—Digital Technologies’.

Day 2 was very much about the future. The enjoyable ‘Dragon’s Den’ format saw track leaders and industry partners delivering scientific pitches and attendees ‘investing’ their money in the proposals displaying the most potential. Mike Dillinger, Principal at TOPs Globalization Consulting, delivered a fascinating keynote presentation.

December 2011

www.cngl.ie
Digital Content Management (DCM)

Prototype development and research commercialisation were notable outputs of Q4 for DCM. DCM researchers reported significant interaction with potential new industry partners at the CNGL Innovation Showcase in November. DCM researchers presented a wide range of innovative prototypes and services at the event. Substantial progress has been made on DCM prototypes from both a scientific and industrial perspective. We planned and executed trials of Personalised Multilingual Customer Care based on a range of novice to experienced Norton 360 users. The first version of the Personalisation-as-a-Service prototype is now close to completion.

DCM researchers have prepared final submissions of revised journal papers to high impact journals this quarter, and a paper has been accepted to ACM’s Computing Surveys. We have executed a collaboration agreement with HMH on Personalised Portals for Informal Learning, which involves the set up of a trial of DCM technology to support next generation learning and digital curation.

Commercialisation of DCM research continues apace. Personalised Multilingual Customer Care spin-out Emizar has moved to Business Partnership and Business Model mode. SFI Technology Innovation Development Award (TIDA) grants to the value of €130,000 have been secured for Emizar and Personalisation-as-a-Service.

Next Generation Localisation (LOC)

To the fore this quarter were publications, international presentations and component integration

LOC researchers contributed significantly to the Action Week for Global Information Sharing (AGIS) 2011, which was hosted by UNECA in Ethiopia in early December. The event connected Africa’s language industry, decision makers and researchers with mainstream localisation and translation industries and researchers. Read a review of AGIS’11 by LOC Track Leader, Reinhard Schäler, on page 8.

There was a strong showing from the LOC research group this quarter in terms of publications and presentations. A peer-reviewed journal paper has been accepted to Localisation Focus, which is due for publication shortly. LOC papers will also be published in the 2011 issue of the Journal of Internationalisation and Localisation (JIAL), in proceedings of ASLIB Translating and the Computer, in the Tradumática Journal, and in the Journal of Information Science. A conference paper proposal has been accepted by the panel of the IATIS 2012 Conference.

CNGL spin-out activity, The Rosetta Foundation, exhibited at the Localization World Silicon Valley Conference in October and ran a pre-conference workshop. In addition, the Solas innovation platform was shown in a special Demo Derby session. The event provided great exposure for the SOLAS platform and enabled us to establish new industry contacts.

LOC researchers have been busy coordinating cross-strand collaboration from a component perspective – from both a Solas-centric viewpoint, and in terms of overall CNGL component integration. We have held discussions with the Systems Framework track regarding the application of their user studies expertise to community-based localisation workflow interfaces.

On the Tech Transfer front, Translation eXchange (now Solas Match) has completed its 6-month software innovation disclosure period, and is now in a position for tech transfer.
**Systems Framework (SF)**

To the forefront this quarter were medical interpreting and the Wizard of Oz platform.

SF researchers report good progress on evaluation of the Wizard of Oz platform this quarter. This includes the interviewing of speech application developers and voice interface designers in connection with the platform. A paper on the WOZ platform was submitted to ACM SIGCHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI 2012).

Contacts with various hospitals in Ireland and the US have been established, with a view to shadowing and interviewing medical interpreters. Ilana Rozanes presented a paper on potential uses of language technology in medical interpreting at the Health Informatics Society of Ireland (HISI) Annual Conference in November.

Dr Bridget Kane of TCD’s Knowledge and Data Engineering Group will join CNGL on a short-term contract to investigate potential uses of collaborative work in translation language technology in health informatics.

SF researchers have strengthened their collaboration with the LOC track on cooperative work in translation, building on fieldwork undertaken by SF and software and requirements work completed by LOC in the context of CNGL spinout activity, the Rosetta Foundation.

On the publications front, a paper on alignment in S2S translation systems has been accepted to the International Workshop on Spoken Language Translation (IWSLT 2012).

**Integrated Language Technology (ILT)**

Publication and funding success were the major themes of Q4 for ILT.

ILT researchers have been prolific on the publications front in Q4, with papers accepted to the IEEE International Conference on Natural Language Processing and Knowledge Engineering (NLPKE) and the journal ‘Machine Translation’. 10 papers have also been submitted to peer-reviewed international conferences and workshops.

Strong engagement with the Centre’s industry partners includes continued interaction with VistaTEC/Digital Linguistics over licensed technologies, and further progress on linguistic features of future forum leader postings in conjunction with Symantec.

In addition, ILT researchers have kept an open door to collaboration with additional industry partners and EU FP7 interactions. The Enterprise Ireland Innovation Voucher project with Vocalitics has been completed. The grant agreement for the LT-WEB FP7 project has been signed, and the negotiation meeting for the QTLaunch Pad FP7 project was successful.

SFI TIDA funding has been secured for a project concerning the Integration of Machine Translation Memories (based on the work of Yifan He). This will cover the cost of 1 postdoctoral researcher and 1 research assistant for 12 months.

The CNGL-affiliated project Patent Language Translations Online (PLuTO) has received funding for a visiting Chinese postdoc from Hong Kong University under the SFI short-term travel fellow scheme.
In Brief

STAFF NEWS

Welcome to:

Amelie Dorn, who has joined TCD as PhD candidate under the supervision of Ailbhe Ní Chasaide.

Lorraine Goeuriot, who joins DCU as Postdoctoral Researcher on the CNGL-affiliated Kreshmoi project.

Farewell to:

Özlem Çetinoğlu, Postdoctoral Researcher with ILT3, who departed DCU recently to join the Institut für Maschinelle Sprachverarbeitung at Universität Stuttgart

Congratulations to:

Asanka Wasala, LOC PhD candidate at UL, who became a dad to baby Siluni last month. Best wishes to Asanka and his wife Menaka.

Stephen Doherty of ILT, who successfully defended his PhD in November. Stephen was supervised by Dr Dorothy Kenny and Dr Sharon O’Brien at DCU.

Tsuyoshi Okita of ILT, who completed his PhD viva this quarter under the supervision of Prof. Andy Way at DCU.

METADATA GROUP

The CNGL Metadata Group (MDG) aims to work towards collecting, recording and documenting the usage and application of metadata across the demonstrator systems and research conducted as part of CNGL.

Previous experiments have been conducted into documenting and building semantic models of CNGL in terms of content, services and properties. The results of this work proved highly useful for visualising the overall information flow in CNGL. The Metadata Group is currently applying electronic versions of these conceptual models in a number of different demonstration systems. This research is being conducted to link together the different demonstrators, through common semantics. By using Resource Description Framework (RDF) modeling, similarities and shared resources can be quantified across the different demonstration systems of CNGL.

The Metadata Group has modeled the collaborative research conducted in CNGL theoretically, instantiated it into electronic models, and is deploying these models at the core of demonstration research. This research aims to tie together research systems and provide a framework for data sharing, mark-up and expansion. Evaluation of such an approach will be conducted via use-cases that highlight the ability to query across the models and thus demonstrate the linking of collaborative research that was previously partitioned via their usage of technology but linked through their CNGL-wide semantics.

For more information, contact Dominic.Jones@cs.tcd.ie.
did you know that, over the past decade, six of the world’s ten fastest-growing countries were African; and that with 600 million mobile phone users, Africa has overtaken America and Europe? It is because of our ignorance of Africa that the hottest continent is still not on the radar of mainstream localisation. This became clear at the recent GALA- and Localisation World-supported Action for Global Information Sharing event (AGIS ’11), hosted by the UN’s Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) in Addis Ababa, co-organised by the Localisation Research Centre (LRC) and supported by CNGL.

Africa is the cradle of humanity, the birthplace of human language and, with close to 3,000 languages, the world’s most diverse linguistic continent. Earlier this month close to 200 delegates gathered in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, to celebrate the Third Action for Global Information Sharing (AGIS ‘11). The UN’s Economic Commission for Africa hosted the event, which was opened by the Ethiopian Minister for IT; the Irish Ambassador to Ethiopia; the Director of ICT Science and Technology (ECA); and the Director of the Localisation Research Centre (LRC) at the University of Limerick.

For the first time, AGIS ‘11 connected Africa’s language industry, decision makers and researchers with the mainstream localisation and translation industries and researchers. Ethiopia’s Minister for IT, in his opening address, stressed the importance of Ethiopia’s two hundred languages for the economic development of his country. The Irish Ambassador stressed the important role our country, with a population smaller than that of Addis, sees in the economic and cultural development of Ethiopia, and pledged Ireland’s continued support for a multilingual Africa. Ireland’s support of AGIS ’11 was acknowledged by many speakers, among them the secretary of the Academy of African Languages.

The event was jointly organised by the United Nations’ ECA (UNECA), CDAC Pune, and the LRC/CNGL. It was supported by a wide range of African organisations, including the African Network for Localization (ANLoc), the African Language Technology Network (AfLaT), and the Internet Society (Africa); Western organisations supporting the event included the world’s largest industry association, the Globalization and Localization Association (GALA), the world’s largest industry event organiser, Localization World, and the world-leading Centre for Next Generation Localisation (CNGL), with Multilingual Computing as the media sponsors.

Delegates agreed that AGIS ’11 will signify the beginning of a number of collaboration initiatives and established the AGIS Network to facilitate information and knowledge exchange. UNECA and the LRC signed a Memorandum of Understanding to support these developments; a further memorandum is planned with the Academy of African Languages in the near future.

Concrete discussions are already on the way to explore joint actions to promote the work of Africa’s vibrant language and localisation communities within GALA, and to involve GALA much closer in the preparations for AGIS ‘12. AGIS ‘12 will take place in Sri Lanka on 10th-11th December 2012. Save the date!

Read Reinhard Schäler’s full review of AGIS’11

Note: AGIS ‘11 would not have happened without the dedication and support of Solomon Gizaw, a CNGL PhD student at the Localisation Research Centre of the University of Limerick.
The National Centre for Language Technology in DCU organised the 12th International Workshop on Parsing Technologies (IWPT), which took place from 5th - 7th October 2011 in the Helix, DCU. CNGL researchers had a strong input into the organisation and delivery of the event.

IWPT is the biennial conference on all things related to natural language parsing, a cornerstone technology in the field of Natural Language Processing which is used in applications such as machine translation, question-answering and sentiment analysis.

The conference was a resounding success, with 60 participants from academia and industry (Google, Symantec) coming together to discuss the latest developments in parsing Arabic, Basque, Chinese, Danish, Dutch, English, French, German, Hindi, Spanish, Swedish and Turkish.

The conference featured three excellent invited talks by Ina Bornkessel-Schlesewsky (Philipps-Universität Marburg, Germany) on the human parsing mechanism, Michael Collins (Columbia University, USA) on the use of Lagrangian relaxation in parsing and machine translation, and Mark Steedman (University of Edinburgh, UK) on computing scope in parsing.

The second International Workshop on Statistical Parsing of Morphologically Rich Languages (SPMRL) was held during the second afternoon of IWPT and included a lively discussion panel. The conference dinner took place in Johnny Fox’s Pub, giving delegates the opportunity to experience the Dublin countryside and, for some, their first taste of Irish dancing.

Many thanks are due to IWPT’s sponsors (SFI, DCU, CNGL, Springer, Fáilte Ireland), to the Programme Chair, Joakim Nivre (Uppsala University, Sweden), for putting together such a strong and varied programme, and to Local Chair, Özlem Çetinoğlu (then CNGL, now IMS Stuttgart), for doing an outstanding job of leading the local arrangements team. CNGL researchers also featured on the workshop programme. Jennifer Foster, Özlem Çetinoğlu, Joachim Wagner and Josef van Genabith presented ‘Comparing the Use of Edited and Unedited Text in Parser Self-Training’.

This workshop review was kindly provided by Dr Jennifer Foster of DCU.

Online proceedings can be obtained from: www.aclweb.org/anthology/sigparse#2011.
Gareth Jones of DCU co-organises MediaEval 2011

MediaEval focuses on the social and human aspects of multimedia and strives to emphasise the ‘multi’ in multimedia.

Gareth Jones (DCU) with Martha Larson (TU Delft) organised the MediaEval 2011 campaign which concluded with a very successful workshop in Pisa, Italy in September. MediaEval is an international multimedia benchmarking initiative that offers innovative new content analysis, indexing and search tasks to the multimedia community. MediaEval focuses on social and human aspects of multimedia and strives to emphasise the ‘multi’ in multimedia, including the use of speech, audio, tags, users, and context, as well as visual content. MediaEval seeks to encourage novel and creative approaches to tackling these new and emerging multimedia tasks. MediaEval was launched as an independent benchmarking campaign in 2010 with sponsorship by the EU PetaMedia NoE.

MediaEval 2011 offered 6 tasks coordinated in cooperation with various research groups in Europe and elsewhere. The following tasks were offered in the 2011 season: Placing Task, Spoken Web Search Task, Affect Task, Social Event Detection Task, Genre Tagging Task, and Rich Speech Retrieval Task. The Rich Speech Retrieval Task was co-organised by Maria Eskevich (DCU) PhD student with the CNGL-affiliated SFI RFP IISSCoS project and Roeland Odelman of the Netherlands Institute for Sound & Vision.

The MediaEval 2011 workshop was an official satellite event of Interspeech 2011. The workshop brought together the task participants to report on their findings, discuss their approaches and learn from each other. Almost 60 participants attended the workshop — representing a twofold increase on the 2010 workshop. In addition to organiser and participant presentations, the workshop included a practitioners’ session in which projects, research sites and industry groups that are involved with MediaEval related tasks or technologies presented overviews of their work and ideas. The working notes proceedings for the MediaEval 2011 workshop are available online at: http://ceur-ws.org/Vol-807

The MediaEval organisers are now beginning preparations for MediaEval 2012. This will begin with a questionnaire to the community seeking its views on proposed tasks and research questions. Feedback from the questionnaire will be used to determine the research agenda for the campaign. Further details are available at: www.multimediaeval.org.

CNGL Permeates Programme at Localization World Silicon Valley

CNGL had a strong presence at Localization World Silicon Valley, which ran from 10th-12th October in Santa Clara.

David Filip of UL contributed to two sessions focused on standards. Eoin Ó Conchúir and Reinhard Schäler (also of UL) presented a pre-conference workshop titled ‘Give Up the Illusion of Control: How to Support User-driven, Needs-based Translation and Localization Scenarios!’

Eoin also presented SOLAS at the Demo Derby, and Reinhard joined the lively panel discussion on Non-Profit Contributions for a Non-Profit World’.

The CNGL booth in the industrial exhibitors’ hall was also busy throughout the event.
Below is just a sample of the many activities in which CNGL staff and students have participated this quarter...

**CNGL ‘in the Picture’**

Maria Eskevich, Özlem Çetinoğlu, Teresa Lynn and Lamia Tounsi pictured at IWPT 2011 at Dublin City University in October

Launch of All Ireland Linguistics Olympiad 2012 at Mount Temple School, Dublin in October 2011

Páraic Sheridan and Vincent Wade pictured with Graham Love (SFI Director General), Fred Hollowood (Symantec) and Richard Bruton TD, Minister for Jobs, Enterprise & Innovation at the Localisation Innovation Showcase

Séamus Lawless, Kevin Koidl, Liliana Mamani-Sanchez, Killian Levacher and Gerard Lynch receive Commercial Recognition Awards in November 2011

CNGl IP Manger, Stephen Roantree pictured with Mark Flanagan of VistaTEC at the Localisation Innovation Showcase

Mary Laplante of Outsell Inc’s Gilbane Group, Keynote Speaker at the Localisation Innovation Showcase

**Rosetta Foundation celebrates Social Localisation Network Launch**

CNGl spinout activity, The Rosetta Foundation, hosted a launch event for its Social Localisation Network on the Jeanie Johnston Tall Ship and Famine Museum in Dublin in October.

Partners including Concern, the Special Olympics and Vision 2020 spoke at the event about the impact of the Rosetta Foundation’s work. Some of the 900 volunteers shared why they donate their time to provide free translations. Significant recent donations to the Foundation include €30k from Xlated Ltd. and €5k from Mondragon.

**UCD to host IAST Workshop**

CNGl has issued a Call for Participation in the Workshop on Innovation and Applications in Speech Technology (IAST), which will be held on 9th-10th March 2012 at UCD.

The aim of the IAST workshop is to bring together people from different research groups in academia and industry to discuss present and future trends of speech technology as well as the research behind it. The deadline for submission of abstracts is 15th January 2012.

See Further Details

**CNGL IP Manger, Stephen Roantree pictured with Mark Flanagan of VistaTEC at the Localisation Innovation Showcase**

**Mary Laplante of Outsell Inc’s Gilbane Group, Keynote Speaker at the Localisation Innovation Showcase**

**Share your photos with us!**

Email your images to laura.grehan@dcu.ie

www.cngl.ie
The CNGL-affiliated PLuTO project is developing advanced patent translation technologies that will significantly reduce the time and costs associated with patent search and translation.

Researchers at the Centre for Next Generation Localisation at DCU recently showcased a new machine translation system that promises to reduce the costs associated with patent search and filing in the European Union. The European Commission-funded PLuTO consortium, of which DCU is lead partner, exhibited a prototype of its rapid online patent translation service to 330 patent experts at the European Patent Office’s Patent Information Conference on 18th October at the Lyrath Hotel in Kilkenny. The PLuTO (‘Patent Language Translations Online’) system is tailored specifically to the needs of inventors seeking information on existing patents and other intellectual property matters. The system has generated significant interest among national patent offices, multinationals, law firms, and individual IP specialists.

The translation burden when seeking patent validation can prove expensive and time consuming for companies. This is despite the introduction of the London Agreement, which aimed to reduce the translation costs of European patents granted under the European Patent Convention. These translations come at significant cost, up to €680 per EU patent, and are often prohibitive to individual inventors and SMEs.

Additionally, the increase in IP activity globally over the last number of years, particularly in Asia, means that greater amounts of patent data now exist in languages foreign to patent searchers and examiners, thus creating additional translation needs. The PLuTO project is improving access to multilingual digital patent libraries, thus reducing the time and cost associated with patent information access and filing.

“We aim to deploy personalised, tailored vocabulary and terminology management for patent professionals across many languages”, explains project coordinator Dr John Tinsley.

“Thanks to its specialisation, the system is more reliable than general-purpose machine translation tools, providing on-demand translation when instant access to information is required. We are working closely with the European Patent Office and have already deployed, from DCU, machine translation for English-Portuguese to run live on the EPO website. Ultimately, we aim to deploy personalised, tailored vocabulary and terminology management for patent professionals across many languages”, adds Tinsley.

Direct Translation Interface

- Segment highlighting
- Download in multiple formats
- Editable translation output
Upcoming Events

January 2012
- CNGL at BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition
  11th - 14th January 2012, RDS, Dublin 4, Ireland  Further Details

February 2012
- All Ireland Linguistics Olympiad 2012—Qualifying Round
  (Taking place in schools across Ireland)

March 2012
- All Ireland Linguistics Olympiad 2012—National Finals
  20th March 2012, DCU, Dublin 9, Ireland  Further Details
- Workshop on Innovation and Applications in Speech Technology (IAST)
  9th - 10th March 2012, Dublin 4, Ireland  Further Details

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The Centre for Next Generation Localisation (CNGL) is a dynamic academia-industry partnership that conducts ground-breaking research into next-generation localisation (i.e. the process of adapting digital content to culture, location and linguistic environment) by addressing key challenges in information volume, access and personalisation.

Got an idea for a news article? Perhaps you’d like to contribute?
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