

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

DATE: THURSDAY 11 MARCH 2010

ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



UTAS HITLab raises importance of technology for healthy ageing

The University of Tasmania's dynamic Human Interface Technology Laboratory (HITLab) Australia is taking part in worldwide research to look at how revolutionary technology can help an ageing society.

HITLab director Associate professor Aaron Quigley said today that the HITLab has received \$150,000 in funding from the European Union's Bridging Research in Ageing and ICT Development project.

"UTAS has a critical role to play in the program as the only non-EU partner, as we can give the project a broader international and in particular Australian perspective," he said.

Assoc Prof Quigley said the project will help produce a vision of what society wants to achieve in the future in terms of the critical issues facing an ageing population.

"This project highlights the global nature of the challenges we face in supporting the well-being and socio-economic integration of increasing numbers of senior citizens," he said.

The EU has invested strongly in e-inclusion and the role Information and Computer Technology has in developing frameworks for the future.

Assoc Prof Quigley said as part of the project, the HITLab is organising a forum in Canberra for research and funding agencies interested in learning how technology can facilitate healthy ageing and independent living.

"By the end of the project we aim to have a roadmap which details the synergies between research and funding for this issue in the EU, Australia and New Zealand," he said.

The coordinator for the project is Queen's University in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

About HITLab Australia:

The HITLab Australia is a specialist human interface technology teaching and research centre developed by UTAS within the School of Computing and Information Systems. HITLab collaborates with HITLabs in Seattle and New Zealand.

The HITLab undertakes research in areas like gaming and augmented reality, mixed reality and pervasive computing. The HITLab is exploring the development of research and teaching collaborations across a range of disciplines at UTAS including

Architecture, Visual and Performing Arts, Nursing and Health Science, Engineering and the Australian Maritime College.

For more information/interviews: please contact Assoc Prof Aaron Quigley, (03) 6324 3977

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