

Developing cutting-edge Information and Communication Technologies for Communities and Businesses

InfoLab21, Lancaster University

Meeting Global Challenges

- InfoLab21 is a world-leading research, development and business centre in Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). It brings together leading researchers, businesses and communities. The research has a practical focus with an emphasis on building experimental systems and testing them in the community.
- More than 250 researchers and experts in fields including communication systems, computer networks, internet and web technologies, wireless mobile and multimedia systems and software systems development tools are located at the centre and all are supported to commercially exploit their research.

Multidisciplinary

- InfoLab21 recognises that solutions are rarely found within one single discipline. Research groups are drawn from across departmental boundaries – crucial given the real world problems they are addressing. It draws on the Computing and Communication Systems Departments and expertise across the university, including the largest group of environmental researchers in Europe, and collaboration with business and management experts, engineers and psychologists.

Impact of Research

- InfoLab is committed to the practical applications of research, developing ICT solutions for global telecom network operators, equipment manufacturers and software providers including Microsoft, Nokia, BAE Systems, BBC, BT, Orange, Cisco, and Ford. Within the centre academics and business people work alongside each other to mutual benefit, and many partnerships have developed with regional businesses, to assist their development, create jobs and safeguard sales.
- The centre develops technology that directly improves people's lives. A wireless broadband network was developed for Slavutych in the Ukraine to address the social and economic consequences of the nuclear power plant closure. Slavutych was built to house workers evacuated after the Chernobyl nuclear disaster but a lack of internet connectivity hampered job creation. The network has transformed the town into a ground breaking e-city. Providing high speed internet access and creating new, information based services, has improved residents standard of living, made use of their skills and attracted new hi-tech business. The town's population is expected to double as businesses take advantage of connectivity to create jobs.
- Project Isis is a three-year Child Protection Initiative to develop practical new technological tools for policing websites, support law enforcement and protect children online. Experts at Infolab are harnessing new developments in language analysis to identify paedophiles posing as children in online chat rooms to pick up on their vocabulary choices and trail them as they move around the internet.

Funding

- The centre was established using QR funding from HEFCE with support from the Northwest Development Agency (NWD) and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). Today, InfoLab21 research projects have secured funding from a range of business partners, the EPSRC, PPARC, the EU, and IST.