



Sensor Consortium: Consortium for Security and Medical Systems

Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, SUNY Stony Brook

Newsletter, December 2005

Three months have passed since the beginning of the new academic year 2005-2006, the second year of the Consortium activities. In this newsletter we are reporting the news that occurred during this period.

Educational Component

Recruiting and selecting students for E-Teams.

The Consortium began its activity in April 2005. During the summer of 2005 the project coordinators in the Educational Partners colleges advertised the Consortium among their students. The advertisement effort was not limited to engineering students, all students were exposed. The information was available via fliers, internet site, application forms. In the first week of the fall semester the coordinators gathered the applications and CV of all students. After preliminary filtering of the submitted applications we had a pool of about 20 students, 5 students from each school. At the last stage of the selection process, each Stony Brook faculty project advisor selected from this pool four undergraduate students (one from each college) for their E-Team from the student pool.

E-Team projects. As in the first year, the Sensor Consortium supports four E-Team projects. Two of them are continuation of last year projects. Two of them are new titles. The description of the projects and information about student comprising E-Teams can be found in the *Project Description* page of the Consortium site (<http://www.ece.sunysb.edu/~sensorconsortium>).

B. Course on the Entrepreneurship

The entrepreneurial course was read by Prof. Gerrit Wolf of the Harriman School of Management and Policy at Stony Brook. This year the course also meets at Stony Brook Light Engineering Building, Rm 250, each Saturday morning with the entire body of all four E-teams present.

The goal of the course is to provide each E-Team with tools to build a business plan for taking technological innovation of their project to market. The assumption in the course is that the business track parallels the engineering track. While the engineering track defines the product and develops prototypes, and requires students to write a technical proposals and reports, and to present them to a customer, the business track deals with team issues, market opportunities, and requires students to write a business plan and to present to client.

General topics such as creativity, project management, opportunities, intellectual property are



First 2005-2006 class of Prof. Wolf' course

taught in the fall and business oriented topics such as developing a business plan and planning, financing and launching a venture are taught in the spring close to the actual venture "launching" during the Competition. In the first semester each E-Team will be assigned an MBA graduate student who helps the teams to define the key problems in their projects. In the spring semester, under the guidance of Prof. Wolf and his MBA students the teams starts developing the business plans. A month before the Competition, the plans are

submitted for review to the Stony Brook Development Center, and corrected and improved if needed.

The syllabus for the Entrepreneurial course can be found in the *Guidelines for students* page of the Consortium site.

On the last course meeting of the fall semester (Dec 10, 2005) all groups presented their up-to-date findings. For each project, the presentations contained the following categories:

- Statement of the problem addressed by the project
- The scope of technical work involved
- Market values: price estimate, market size
- Competitors: pros and cons of their products
- Power source for the future device
- Safety issues

Prof. Wolf praised all groups for their thorough research in the above subjects. The course will resume for the spring semester on February 4, 2006.

Research and Technology Transfer

Together with the Stony Brook Technology Transfer and Licensing Department the sensor Consortium sponsored a colloquium of Dr. Errol Arkilic, a program manager in the SBIR/STTR program at NSF about an emerging SBIR grant program focused on supporting new business opportunities.

Outreach and Dissemination:

As a part of the internal assessment process, the Consortium staff initiated a survey of opinions

Sensor Consortium, Rm 214 Old Chemistry Building, State University of New York at Stony Brook,
Stony Brook NY 11794-3717

Tel:(631) 632-1647, Email: SensorConsortium@ece.sunysb.edu,
URL: <http://www.ece.sunysb.edu/~sensorconsortium/>

Our seminar series started this year in the late September. Three seminars have taken place, and two more are scheduled for December 2005 and January 2006.

The information about Consortium seminar series is available in the *Schedule of events* page of the Consortium site.