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STEVIN EXHIBITIONS @ Interspeech 28-31 August 2007 Looszaal, level 0 of FCCC

STEVIN Background

The STEVIN HLT research programme aims to stimulate the language and speech technological sector in Flanders and the Netherlands by enhancing its innovation capacity and by strengthening the position of Dutch in the modern information and communication society. STEVIN awards funding to universities and industrial partners for jointly realising the implementation of an adequate digital language infrastructure in Dutch, for carrying out strategic research in the field of language and speech technology, and additional activities to advance the use of language and speech technology.

STEVIN was launched in 2005 and is financed by the Flemish (Department of Economics, Science and Innovation) and Dutch governments (Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, Ministry of Economic Affairs, and NWO). It is carried out under the auspices of the Dutch Language Union (NTU).

STEVIN @ Interspeech

An important added component of the STEVIN programme is its funding of short-term demonstration projects, in which proven technology is applied to new domains in order to stimulate the demand for language and speech technology. So far 9 demonstration projects have been funded by STEVIN, some of which will be presented during Interspeech at the exhibition stands (C-Content, Audiokrانت, GemeenteConnect, SNRT, Spellingchatbox, Rechtspraakherkenning and VoiceAssess). Furthermore, demonstrations will be given of a few other very interesting HLT research projects within (AUTONOMATA) and outside STEVIN (IMIX-demonstrator and Choral), which are currently being carried out in Belgium and the Netherlands. A timetable of the demonstrations can be found below, along with a short description of the project.

Please visit the STEVIN exhibition stands!

Timetable of the STEVIN demonstrations @ Interspeech

Date	Stand 1	Stand 2
28/8 Tuesday 13.00-18.00	C-Content Twenty years of experience in the field of language technology is embedded in rechtsorde.nl, the Dutch information portal for legal professionals. C-CONTENT is one of the longest standing suppliers of electronic publishing and information retrieval solutions and the initiator of Rechtsorde b.v. <i>Michel Mooren - C-Content</i>	PRAAT PRAAT is an extensive application for language, music and speech research that is used by approx. 10,000 scientists and students around the globe. <i>David Weenink - University of Amsterdam</i>
29/8 Wednesday 8.30-13.00	CHoral Choral aims to improve Dutch spoken document retrieval for the cultural heritage domain. CHoral's 'Radio Oranje' demonstrator shows an attractive multimedia user experience based on a collection of historic, mono-media audio documents: the speeches that Queen Wilhelmina (1880-1962) addressed to the Dutch people in occupied areas during World War II. <i>Willemijn Heeren & Arjan van Hessen - University of Twente</i>	Audiokrانت In this project the daily Belgian newspapers "Het Nieuwsblad" and "De Standaard" will be made available in Daisy format. This format contains as well the written information as a spoken version. Synthetic speech is used to produce the spoken version. <i>Frank Allemeersch - Sensotec NV</i>

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<i>Date</i>	<i>Stand 1</i>	<i>Stand 2</i>
29/8 Wednesday 13.00 - 18.00	<p>GemeenteConnect GemeenteConnect is a phone dialogue system that allows for free speech input, initiated by the caller; it uses a combination of speech recognition, classification and computational linguistics based dialogue management. Users can freely provide information in their own wording, and in an interaction (dialogue) with the user the system combines all pieces of information given by the user to a unique query which leads to a unique answer.</p> <p><i>Joop van Gent, Nicky Mudde - Irion Technologies, Hans Jongebloed - Dutcheer</i></p>	<p>Speech-driven License Plate Retrieval Tool (SNRT) This tool demonstrates that automating vehicle license plate retrieval using speech recognition technology can lead to improved service with reduced human effort.</p> <p><i>Els Nachtegaal - Dutcheer BV</i></p>
30/8 Thursday 08.30 - 13.00	<p>Spellingchatbot Many youngsters and preadolescents have troubles with spelling, but also professional language users regularly have questions concerning the spelling of certain words and could benefit from an easily accessible tool. Several different ways to check the spelling of words already exist, but Spelspiek adds a dynamic feature: you can use Spelspiek through modern communication interfaces like web browsers, MSN or SMS. Moreover, it is possible to ask spelling questions using natural language. Spelspiek uses lexical data provided by INL and Van Dale. The Spelspiek software integrates spelling correction software by Polderland and chatbot software by Elitech.</p> <p><i>Katrien Van pellicom & Michel Boekestein - Institute for Dutch Lexicology</i></p>	<p>Rechtspraakherkenning Courts in the Netherlands are increasingly required to transcribe the recordings made in the courtroom. This project aims to develop tools that can significantly cut down the amount of time needed to do so by using existing language and speech technology.</p> <p><i>Arjan van Hessen, Martin Spitholt - Telecats</i></p>
30/8 Thursday 13.00 - 18.00		<p>Voice Assess Companies spend too much time and money on selecting suitable candidates for working in call centres, given that only 10% of the applicants prove to be suitable for the job. This project aims to develop a tool for an automatic preselection of candidates that uses both speech recognition and a web application.</p> <p><i>Arjan van Hessen, Martin Spitholt - Telecats</i></p>
31/8 Friday 08.30 - 13.00	<p>IMIX demonstrator The IMIX demonstrator is a multimodal dialogue system for question answering in the medical domain.</p> <p><i>Dennis Hofs & Boris van Schooten - University of Twente</i></p>	<p>AUTONOMATA AUTONOMATA (Automata for deriving phoneme transcriptions of Dutch and Flemish names) has built two resources: (1) a grapheme-to-phoneme conversion tool set for creating good phonetic transcriptions of proper names, and (2) a corpus of spoken name utterances for supporting more research towards better automatic name recognition.</p> <p><i>Jean-Pierre Martens - Ghent University</i></p>

For more information on the STEVIN programme, visit our website at www.stevin-TST.org.