



## Network for Innovation.

### Website Portal – preliminary discussion leading to a Requirements Document.

- 1) Website portal requirements
- 2) Reason for a website portal

I have had many ideas and inventions over the years but all are on paper or prototyped because I have not had all the necessary skills to develop them – there must be others like me that are frustrated by this – if only I knew reliable and appropriately skilled people to help.

I am also fed up with the lack of recognition for engineers, scientists and technologists in the UK because their status is not respected as it is in, say, France.

A single idea, invention or improvement can create heavily loaded and complex processes to ensure that [safety] standards and/or customer requirements are met and that significant costs savings can be proven at a very early stage of any product or service lifecycle. There are very few people that have the entire project, commercial, systems engineering and support [+] skills necessary to cover all aspects of product design, development and support, so, we have to return to ‘apolitical team working’ – in my view.

Teamwork requires trust; trust is broken down by individual egos; distrust and suspicion amplify individual egos.

For instance: There is a significant demand for modelling (computer aided prototyping) to describe the functionality and capability of a design before it goes into production and service in order to avoid unforeseen unit malfunction, limitations or constraints to customer satisfaction. It is necessary to ensure that those that are capable perform the complex skills. There are many [CASE] tools on the market that require a very high level of expertise for effective use which can only be achieved by those who develop their skills by application (grounding AND experience). Added pressure comes in the form of commercial necessity where time, cost and quality becomes the driving force from non-technical people. It is important that any organisation consists of adaptable people to cover its own weaknesses – this comes in the form of loyalty to the product of an organisation and the desire to be part of a successful outcome which is where reward and other incentives has significant influence on the human element.

This website also intends to provide the means for roving contractors to keep in touch with each other’s whereabouts and news.

- 3) Goals:
  - a) A portal for engineers, scientists and technologists to communicate with each other via forums.
  - b) A portal for anyone that wishes to make a contact or multiple contacts (community) with others that have relevant skills to suit their needs.
  - c) Access to other sites that can provide advice or services.
  - d) Improve the public perception of science and engineering in Britain.
  - e) Negotiate reductions in specialist training courses amongst other goals.
- 4) Scenario(s):
  - a) Someone [primary actor] has an invention or idea that will improve or create a service or function but has limited ability to develop it.
  - b) ‘Primary actor’ enters the website and needs to identify if there is anyone with the skills that is required ..
    - i) he/she enters the keywords for a search (i.e. CAD user, electronics engineer, manufacturing engineer, sensors specialist, etc)
      - (1) if there are no skills available primary actor will leave site – allow actor to send comments to administrator in case other information is available.
      - (2) A list of available skills will be shown. If there are skills that he can use then he will need to ‘register’ in order to get access to contact information. This will involve agreement to a Declaration of Trust (web based Deed of Trust – legal document)

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before the primary actor can continue. Once agreement has been provided then the database shall provide him with an e-mail address/contact page/letterbox so that he/she can make initial contact

- ii) if the person contacted (contactee), by the primary actor, has the skill(s) sought then an arrangement or IPR contract can be created between them and signed to protect the idea/invention before it is divulged (copies of forms blank/signed will be provided by the website/appropriate Patent Office)
- iii) if the contact(s) are ideal and willing to participate then they must set up a 'community' between them to which others may become members (community stakeholders), as required by the 'primary actor' to fulfil his/her requirements – my site has no legal obligations to their arrangement but would like to encourage the provision of a minimum contribution to help with website costs
  - (1) my website may be capable of hosting their community where exchange of information can take place although data flows would be an arrangement made by the community stakeholders
- c) if only advice is needed then a forum may provide him with advice from people that can give it they of course will only provide simple advice not technical as the 'primary actor' will be discouraged from divulging explicit technical information about the idea or invention.
  - i) Forum rules need to be in place to prevent silly comments – if allowed then this would put off bona fide people – this site is serious.

### Other considerations:

- Links to legal and patenting companies/offices to ensure that any agreement has clout in the courts if required – involve those that can provide a reduced cost for advice
- All members of a community may either have a share of the outcome (shared risk) or be paid for their expertise – ideally the former
- Other scenario where a company would like to invite a skill or set of skills contracted to cover a shortage in order to save them costs – e.g. where a Matlab modeller can provide the required commitment to a company – this will help freelancers/contractors to get additional work and avoid agencies costs and reduce turnarounds time in the search for the particular skill need – links to freelancers websites can also be provided so long as there is a 'pay-per-purchase' arrangement provided by the target website

*To be continued .....*

If you would like to contribute to this idea please contact VCSL.