

IGR Summary

BACKGROUND: The research Cluster did not aim to carry out research directly, but to provide catalytic mechanisms whereby appropriate interdisciplinary interaction could take place, as this is a prerequisite to the development of interdisciplinary programmes.

The project involved visits and interaction between members of the Cluster groups (and their researchers), aiming to improve researchers' understandings of complexity problems and limitations imposed by different disciplines.

Interdisciplinary interaction was achieved by holding regular informal and formal meetings, each of which focussed on some particular target element of the research field, and to which appropriate non-UK and UK researchers companies were invited. The proceedings of these meetings were published on the world wide web (www). The project also involved setting up a set of www pages and an email network. The overall aims of the interdisciplinary interaction were:

- To identify key research issues and technologies in this area
- To identify the UK's ability to contribute to this field
- To develop follow-up research proposals to exploit the links established.

SUMMARY OF PROJECT OUTCOMES: All the primary objectives of the Cluster were achieved. These included forging sustainable and tangible links between different emerging scientific and engineering disciplines in order to develop three full multi-disciplinary research grant proposals (exploring the Cluster's three novel research themes) within the Cluster's 12 month lifetime. This was achieved through holding a set of interdisciplinary meetings, culminating in a larger open meeting, held on 27 May 2004, in conjunction with the Advanced Control Technology Club (representing some 40 UK companies).

CURRENT SITUATION: Through extensive links and co-ordinated effort by the Cluster members, all three (originally planned) multi-disciplinary grant proposals (exploring various aspects of the Cluster's three novel research themes) were prepared and submitted to meet the 1 July 2004 deadline. Each of the submitted proposals enjoyed significant industrial participation and support (to a total committed value of £188,850). A decision on all three Cluster proposals is expected by the end of September 2004. Further details of the Cluster activities, including a list of up-to-date Cluster partners, Proceedings of the Cluster meetings (including the final open meeting held on 27 May 2004), and a summary of the three submitted Cluster grant proposals can be found in the Case accompanying this form, as well as on the Cluster website: www.cs.stir.ac.uk/ControlCluster/