

**Interim Reporting Template**

<b>Project Name</b>	Racing Academy (University of Bath and FutureLab)
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<b>With contributions from</b>	Stephen Clibbery Andy Diament John Duddley Carl Gain Jo Iacovides Martin Owen
<b>Reporting period</b>	March 2006 to October 2006
<b>Section One: Summary</b>	
<p>Overview of the project to date</p> <p>The project is approximately 6 months into its lifecycle. It has successfully completed the first phase which was the modification of the software and the development of the evaluation framework. It is now moving into the next phase which is embedding the software into science and engineering courses. The lesson plans have been developed and we have already started using Racing Academy in one course and it will be used in the other three courses in November.</p> <p>Key developments</p> <p>There have been a number of Key developments in the project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The first was the requirements workshop, where all the participants (e.g. 4 lecturers, 3 administrators, 2 designers and 3 researchers) in the group discussed modifying the software. The output of this workshop was a list of requirements in order of priority.</li> <li>• The second was the successful submission of an extension to the proposal to the University of Bath's Teaching and Development fund. We acquired an extra £8500 which has allowed us to use Racing Academy in another Mechanical Engineering Unit for approximately 200 students.</li> <li>• The third major development is the development of the evaluation framework for the project (see website for details). We now have a full set of questionnaires, interview schedules and learning diary questions.</li> <li>• The fourth major development was the successful modification of the software. Lateral Visions achieved all of the high and medium priorities and most of the low priorities. All parties have a copy of the software and initial response is very positive.</li> <li>• The website has been developed and is being used to disseminate key findings.</li> <li>• The next phase is using the software in the science and engineering courses.</li> </ul> <p>Deliverables/outputs</p> <p>There are two main deliverables/outputs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The first is the modified version of Racing Academy, which is available free to download from the Lateral Visions website.</li> <li>• The second are the lessons plans. We have one lesson plan fully complete and the other three are near completion.</li> </ul> <p>Achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The main achievement is the new software and the evaluation framework.</li> <li>• A second achievement was the successfully bidding for some money from the University of bath's Teaching and development fund to extend the project.</li> </ul>	
<b>Section Two: Activities and Progress</b>	

Changes to the overall approach outlined in the project plan.

- There has only been one change to the overall project and that is the extension to the project because of the money from the University of Bath's Teaching and Development Fund. The addition of a new member of staff has allowed us to use Racing Academy in an introduction to engineering course which has approximately 200 students.

Changes to the project team, aims, objectives, deliverables, milestones or the Project Steering Group.

- There have been no changes to the project team, aims, objectives, deliverables, milestones or the Project Steering Group, except we are now employing Ben Drew on the extension to the project funded by the University of Bath's Teaching and Development Fund

### **Section Three: Project Partners**

Report on work with partners for the reporting period.

- We have worked with all the project partners over the reporting period. All partners were involved in the requirement analysis for the modification of the software. Lateral Visions developed the software. Barnfield, Penwith and Bath were involved in testing the software and debugging the new version. All three of the educational institutions are starting to embed the software into their lessons.

Briefly explain any changes to the institutional project partners or subcontractors, and any impacts this has/will have on the project or schedule.

- The only change was the employment of Ben Drew to develop the course materials for the extension to the project at The University of Bath.

What other institutions or organisations are you or do you plan to collaborate with?

- The Eastern and South West Regional Support Centres were contacted early on in the project to discuss possibilities for dissemination and whether they could provide any support for the project. Both organisations have agreed for us to use their mailing lists and newsletters, and to inform us of any workshops and conferences that may be beneficial to the project.
- The Higher Education Academy - Engineering Subject Centre has agreed for us to use their mailing lists and newsletters for dissemination purposes, including Translate, their online triannual newsletter. We have also been invited to attend an e-learning workshop in December 2006. (More below).

### **Section Four: Outputs, Outcomes and Deliverables**

Are there any outputs you would like to share? Please describe, provide URLs or attached documents etc

- Below is the URL for downloading the new Modified version of the software

<http://www.lateralvisions.co.uk/racingacademy/index.htm>

Outline any lessons have been learned that could be passed on to other projects or future programmes.

- The project is only just started and we have only just begun to evaluate the use of Racing Academy and so feel it would be premature to disseminate information we have learnt about the project which could be useful to future projects

### **Section Five: Dissemination**

## Innovative Technologies Projects

Provide details of any activities or events which have involved liaison or collaboration outside the project consortium, including key project stakeholders.

- An e-learning workshop is to be held in December 2006 by the Engineering Subject Centre, where the findings of the JISC project RESET will also be disseminated. Talks are currently being held with Barnfield College, who have expressed an interest in hosting the event.
- RSC South West is holding their annual summer conference in June 2007 and it was suggested that we prepare a workshop or seminar for the event since this coincides with our dissemination period. They have agreed to keep us informed of the details.

Attach or provide URLs for any appropriate dissemination or presentation materials.

- Below is the URL for the project website which we use to disseminate material.
- <http://staff.bath.ac.uk/pssrj/RacingAcademy/index.htm>

Outline any publicity the project received during the reporting period.

- We have received no publicity to date concerning the project

### **Section Six: Evaluation**

Provide brief details of progress in terms of the development and implementation of the project evaluation plan.

- The evaluation plan is progressing well. The following questionnaires have been developed and completed.
  - i) Perceived competence in physics or engineering
  - ii) Importance to self of physics or engineering
  - iii) Motivation for engineering
  - iv) Pre and Post-tests for engineering
  - v) Racing Academy Interest and Enjoyment
  - vi) Racing Academy Perceived Competence
  - vii) Racing Academy Perceived Effort
  - viii) Racing Academy Perceived Value of the activity
  - ix) Diary questions for student
  - x) Diary questions for lecturers
  - xi) Interview Frameworks
- Plans for using racing Academy in the courses have been completed and in the next couple of weeks these will be implemented.

Outline any emerging evaluation issues of interest.

An interesting aspect which has emerged and which Martin Owen is examining. Martin is keen to explore the issue of "games and the politics of school knowledge". There are also issues concerning the integration of VLE's and Moodle.

### **Section Seven: Issues and Challenges**

## Innovative Technologies Projects

Report on issues or problems that are impacting on the development and implementation of the project.

- The main challenge is organising the evaluation of 4 miniprojects (one for each course which is using racing Academy) with 1 research assistant. The difficulty is coordinating the different projects to allow us to collect the data at the appropriate time.

Detail what impact any issues may have on the achievement of project targets, and set out how you plan to tackle these issues.

- This issue may impact on the kind of data we will be collecting. We are setting out plans to make sure that does not happen, but it is difficult.

Report on any unexpected project achievements.

- The successful bid to the University of bath teaching and development fund for an extension to the project

Do you have any specific training needs, requests or suggestions for supporting workshops for the programme?

- I cannot think of any special training needs

### **Section Eight: Support**

Briefly summarise contact with/influence of the programme, e.g. with the programme manager, formal or informal links with other projects, or programme-related activities.

- The project has had indirect contact with the project in Strathclyde.

What further support would you like from the programme, e.g. guidance, workshops, etc?

- I can't think of any at present

Do you have any suggestions for improving the programme?

- I can't think of any at present