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Application Details
Short Term Scientific Mission STSM
Media Lab Europe, Dublin
19.2.2004-5.3.2004

Work Plan:

Within the Music Technology Group at Audiovisual Institute at the Universtat Pompeu Fabra we are currently developing a novel tangible electronic music instrument, the reacTable*. During the past months we have been collaborating with Sile O'Modhrain's Palpable Machines Group at the Media Lab Europe, in order to work on the tactile properties of the instrument's object design in relation to their sonic appearance.

General purpose of this STSM therefore will be the final design and presentation based on the previous collaborative effort.

The reacTable* is a table-based collaborative musical instrument. A set of objects arranged on the table surface is tracked by a computer vision system. Based on their absolute and relative positions these objects form a dynamic patch of sounding objects, which can be manipulated in real time by one or more musicians around the table. The reacTable* is designed to be a live performance instrument for professional musicians, and therefore doesn't come with a default behaviour as many existing musical installations.

During the past few months Martin Kaltenbrunner has already been collaborating with Sile O'Modrain on the design of the actual objects used on the table. The focus of the ongoing research was the relation of the objects' shape, material and texture with the virtual sound the produce or manipulate. Additionally we constructed a simple prototype, which incorporates a computer vision engine by Enrico Constanza, currently working at the media lab Europe.

Besides the continuing the ongoing collaboration the planned STSM will cover three major tasks:

- * Presentation of the current prototype at the MLE Open House Event on Feb. 24th
- * Presentation to the MLE community as part of their series of Research Talks
- * Preparation of a joint publication on the previous collaborative work.

Project References:

Jordà, S.: Sonigraphical Instruments: From FMOL to the reacTable*. The Proceedings of the 3rd Conference on New Instruments for Musical Expression (NIME 03), Montreal, Canada, 2003.

Jordà, S.: Interactive Music Systems for Everyone: Exploring Visual Feedback as a Way for Creating More Intuitive, Efficient and Learnable Instruments. Proceedings of the Stockholm Music Acoustics Conference (SMAC 03), Stockholm, Sweden, 2003.

Estimated Cost Plan:

Flight Barcelona-Dublin-Barcelona		150. -
Additional Transport Costs		50. -
Daily costs (accommodation etc.)		
Total days	16	
Working days:	10	
Travel days	2	
Estimated:	60. - (per working day)	600. -
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	Estimated total cost:	800. -