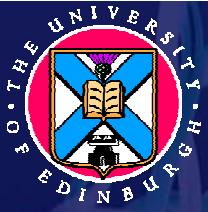


# Setting the Scene: Academic-Industrial Links in Digital Communications

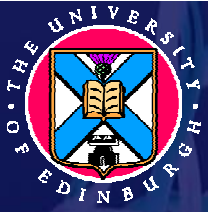
*Steve McLaughlin*

IDCOM, School of Engineering  
University of Edinburgh



## Presentation Overview

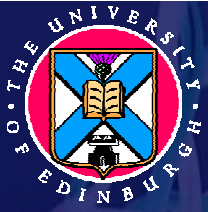
- EPSRC Funding Scene
  - Life is Good
- User Engagement
  - A Good Thing
- Key Questions
  - Time Horizons
    - Academic & Industrial
  - Conservatism
    - Standards?
    - Mindsets



## EPSRC Funding: Level

Research Topic	No. grants	Value (£M)	% ICT spend	Funding ratio*
Digital Signal Processing	23.5	5.3	1.6	18.5 (15.9)%
ICT Networks & Dist Systems	54.1	16.8	5.1	29.2 (22.3)%
Mobile Computing	22.9	11.7	3.6	18.3 (21.7)%
RF and Microwave Technology	24.3	7.8	2.4	20.8 (31.7)%
Other research topics	20.8	7.9	2.4	
<b>Total Communications</b>	<b>145.6</b>	<b>49.5</b>	<b>15.1</b>	<b>24(25.7)</b>

\*Data for decision date Sep 06 – Mar 08



# EPSRC Funding: User Engagement

## User Collaboration

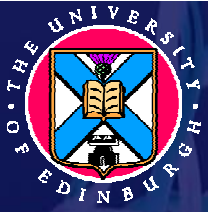
74 grants with project partners  
£6.7M contributions from project partners including:  
*Agilent, BT, Era Technology, Marconi, Motorola, Nokia, Toshiba.*

## Strategic Partnerships

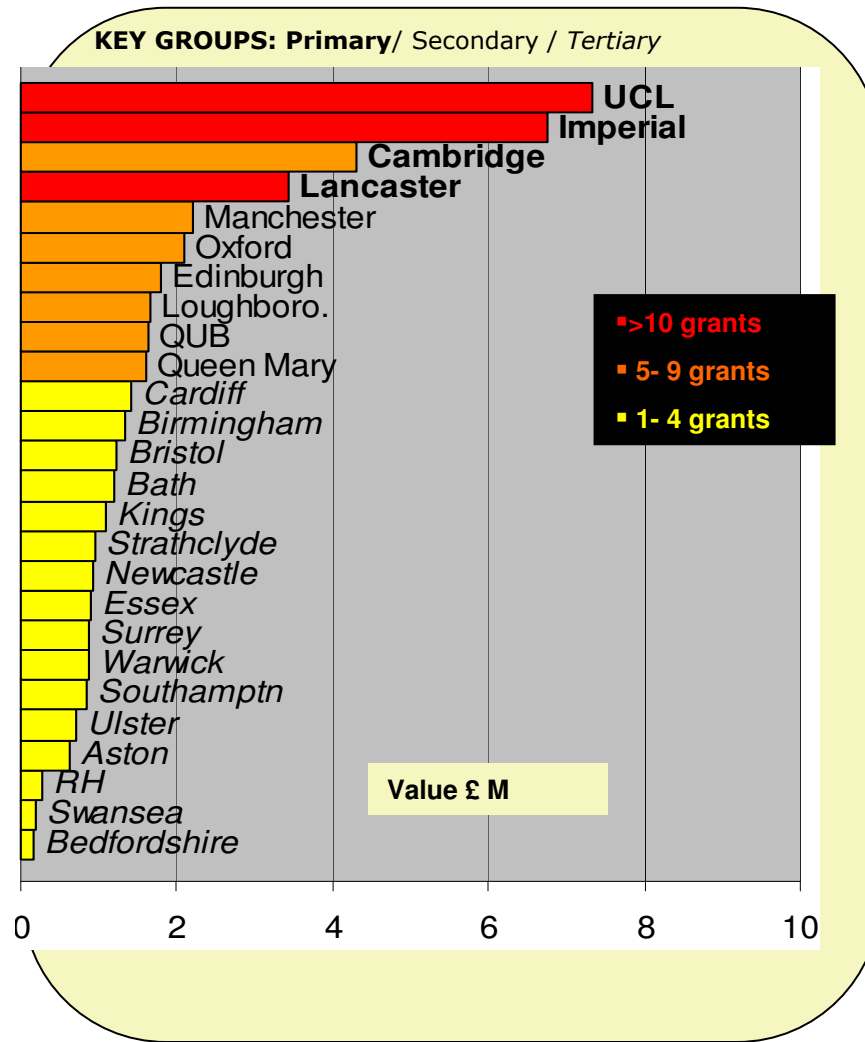
Mobile VCE £4M

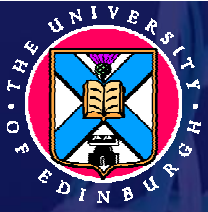
## Managed Calls

WINES



# EPSRC Funding: Key Groups





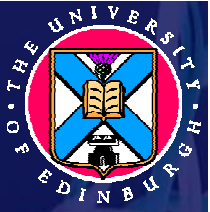
## User Engagement

- BT Labs
  - circa 1980 4000 People
    - “Research is the Door to Tommorow”
  - Circa 2009 100 people?
- Vodafone Research
  - Worldwide around 200 people max



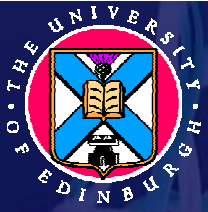
## User Engagement

- Every cloud has a silver lining.....
  - Extra Mural Funding of University Research
    - Leads to greater engagement between university and industrial researchers
  - 6 major IEEE conferences in communications per year
    - Significant proportion of industrial authors



## Key Questions: Time Horizons

- Time Horizons
- EPSRC
  - research horizon of 5-50 years
- Industry
  - Development horizon of 1-2 years



## Key Questions: Conservatism

- Standards
  - Do they stifle innovation?
- Mindsets
  - Referees
    - If you ignore the standards it is not relevant?
    - Where is the relevance to industry?
  - `Researchers
    - “Will have a direct *impact* on industry”
    - “My algorithm will offer a 05dB improvement ”