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1. Welcome and Launch Schedule

Hello and welcome to this first edition of the newsletter of the EPSRC Network on Vision and Language (V&L Net for short). We're pleased to say that funding for V&L Net for a period of three years has now been finalised, and V&L Net will officially be launched on 1 February 2010.

2. Steering Committee

We'd like to take this opportunity to introduce the V&L Net Steering Committee which consists of the network coordinators, four other members of the original V&L Net team and four network mentors:

- Yiannis Aloimonos, University of Maryland, US (Mentor)
- Anja Belz, University of Brighton, UK (Coordinator)
- Darren Cosker, University of Bath, UK
- Roy Davies, Royal Holloway, UK (Mentor)
- Yannis Goulermas, University of Liverpool, UK
- Frank Keller, University of Edinburgh, UK
- Dimitrios Makris, Kingston University, UK (Coordinator)
- Kathy McKeown, Columbia University, US (Mentor)
- William Smith, University of York, UK
- Yorick Wilks, University of Sheffield, UK (Mentor)

We are grateful to our four network mentors for taking on this role, and look forward to their contributions in particular to the annual V&L Net meetings and the V&L Net roadmapping exercise.

3. Membership

There will be three types of V&L Net membership:

1. Subscription to newsletter only
2. Associate membership (free)
3. Full membership (small annual fee)

In addition to the V&L Net newsletter, associate members will have full access to the V&L Net website and all the resources on it, and will pay reduced fees for the annual V&L Net meetings.

In addition to the above, full members pay no fees and get their expenses reimbursed for attending the annual V&L Net meetings, and will be able to submit to Calls for Proposal Ideas (see below).

We will write to you with more details in January to confirm which kind of membership you would prefer.

4. Planned Events and Activities

Once every year we will hold a 2-day all-hands V&L Net meeting which will have paper presentation sessions, demo and poster sessions, discussion and planning sessions, networking activities and an art exhibition. The

annual V&L Net meetings will be the main network events and the main opportunity for networking and presenting research. We're currently considering late June and mid September for possible dates.

Another of our core activities will be Calls for Proposal Ideas. With these, we will aim to pump-prime research collaboration by supporting research collaboration meetings between small groups of network members that have the specific aim of developing and writing a joint proposal involving researchers at different institutions (including industrial partners). In order to have a transparent and accountable mechanism for funding such meetings, we will have 6-monthly calls for research ideas, from which the steering committee will select two which will receive financial support for meetings that are aimed at developing the project idea and bids for funding. Details will be provided in the first Call for Proposal Ideas, to be posted in February 2010.

We are currently developing the V&L Net website which will eventually host a range of repositories of information, data and software. We are also starting to plan special interest groups (SIGs), research workshops and forging links to other networks/initiatives. Please get in touch if you would like to be actively involved in any of these activities.