

THE EDINBURGH-STANFORD INDUSTRIAL LINK

RUSH

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BILL WHITEFORD

Now, two of the world's leading centres for computing science and artificial intelligence, the universities of Edinburgh and Stanford in California, have been showing off the results of their joint efforts today at the launch of the Edinburgh-Stanford Industrial Link. It's all very well for researchers to carry out blue skies work but this is all about getting products to market. There have been various events all day, David Calder is there:

DAVID CALDER, Reporter

Well, this is in fact the formal launch of the Edinburgh-Stanford Link. With me is Nick Wright who is commercial manager of the Link. Nick, just exactly what is it?

NICK WRIGHT, Edinburgh-Stanford Industrial Link

Well, it's a research collaboration between the University of Edinburgh and Stanford University. We have a number of objectives, one is to create some commercially aware graduates who will help benefit the economy. We're looking at licensing technology to companies so that it gives them a comprehensive advantage and maybe the possibility of some spin-outs or start-ups, we have one start-up already as a result of being sponsored by the Link for some research.

DAVID CALDER

But essentially you're bringing two centres of world

excellence together.

NICK WRIGHT

Yes.

DAVID CALDER

Well, also with me is Margaret McGarry who's Director of Technology Collaboration, I believe, at Scottish Enterprise. Why have you decided to back this project?

MARGARET MCGARRY, Scottish Enterprise

Well, it was a radical decision that was taken by the Scottish Executive that they would allow us to fund research on the basis that then the best of research in Scotland could be addressed and examination made of that as to how best it could impact on business in Scotland.

DAVID CALDER

It sounds as though it's very much part of the Smart Successful Scotland concept.

MARGARET MCGARRY

At the heart of it, at the heart of it and probably one of the most difficult to actually implement. We have now, what I would call, broken the back of the research into company activity.

DAVID CALDER

And, Nick, you have already some examples of the kind of way...I mean we're talking about this being translating language technology into business benefit - what kind of businesses could benefit?

NICK WRIGHT

A good example that we can talk about is a Scottish company called Memex, which are one of the world leaders in getting intelligence and the data for the police force and the military and also criminal fraud.

DAVID CALDER

A kind of data mining?

NICK WRIGHT

It is but we call it information extraction because you actually have to recognise what the entities are, you have to recognise place names, you have to recognise locations, you have to recognise actions and when you put all these things together then you start to get intelligence.

DAVID CALDER

Okay, thank you very much both of you. We'll hear more about the actual applications later in the programme but for the moment it's back to the studio.
