



INDUSTRY-ACADEMIA PARTNERSHIPS AND PATHWAYS (IAPP) - MARIE CURIE ACTIONS

IRIS: towards Natural Interaction and Communication

Postdoc position available at the ViVoLab Speech Technologies research group (Zaragoza, Spain).

The University of Zaragoza, Spain, is offering a **one year Post-Doc position** at the ViVoLab research group of the Aragon Institute of Engineering Research, I3A, to carry out research in multimodal biometric recognition and speech analysis.

The I3A (<http://i3a.unizar.es/en>) is a research institute of the University of Zaragoza working in the generation of knowledge and technology related to engineering and its transmission to the Society by means of technology transfer, education and dissemination of our activity. The Information and Communication Technologies division of the I3A coordinates and conducts studies and research programs in the vast field of new information and communication technologies and their interrelationship with the knowledge society. The areas of interest are advanced computing technologies and smart embedded systems; infrastructures, technologies and services for communications; audio-visual technologies and multimedia; advanced interfaces and robots.

ViVoLab is an active research group inside the ICT division of I3A carrying out research in several areas of the speech technologies.

JOB DESCRIPTION

The position is available under the Marie Curie IAPP (Industry-Academia Partnerships and Pathways) project

IRIS: TOWARDS NATURAL INTERACTION AND COMMUNICATION.

<http://www.microsoft.com/pt-pt/mldc/iris/default.aspx>

The overall goal of IRIS is to provide a natural interaction communication platform accessible and adapted for all users, particularly for people with speech impairments and elderly in indoor scenarios. Human-Computer interaction with this platform will adopt the principles of universal design and natural user interfaces such as speech, silent speech, gestures, tactile and haptic devices, pictograms, animated characters and personalized synthetic voices. The platform will provide a set of services that allow easy access to social networks, friends and remote family members, fighting social-exclusion of people with special needs or impairments. Application of these features will be performed in the context of serious games, virtual reality environments and assisted living scenarios. We will also explore the use of personalized avatars (that resemble with the user) in asynchronous human-human and human-machine communications, in situations where the user has lost his/her voice and in scenarios where it is not possible to have a video signal transmission due to low bandwidth or privacy reasons. Biometrics will complement the platform, in the sense that authentication and authorization are fundamental aspects for assuring access security to personal information in a natural way.

The involved organizations are:

MSFT – LDA, Microsoft Portugal (Coordinator)
Universidad de Zaragoza, Spain
Universidade de Aveiro, Portugal
Wondertalent LDA, Portugal
Middle East Technical University, Turkey

The applicant's profile should include as many as possible of the following characteristics:

- Proven leadership to supervise a project from conception to publication.
- Proven experience in participating as a researcher in collaborative R&D Projects.
- Able to demonstrate initiative and proactivity.
- Good command of the English language (Spanish is a plus, but not required)
- Strong background in speech technologies and biometric recognition. Knowledge of multimodal human computer interaction will be considered a plus.
- Good programming skills (C, C++, Matlab, ...)
- Strong knowledge of math and statistics.

The job is offer under the Marie Curie Industry-Academia Partnerships and Pathways so the recruited researchers must adhere to the Marie Curie Mobility Rule:

“At the time of recruitment, recruited researchers must not have resided or carried out their main activity in the country of the host organization for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the recruitment start date”.

The starting date is January 1st, 2015.

The gross salary varies between 40.000€/year (< 10 years of experience) and 60.000€/year (>10 years of experience).

How to apply

Applicants must send their CV, with the relevant documents in attachment, to Prof. Eduardo Lleida (lleida@unizar.es)

Deadline for submissions: June 15, 2014.