

## EPRSC CDT in Pervasive Parallelism Industry Partner Newsletter: Issue 1

### 1. Next Industrial Advisory Board Meeting and Student Conference

We have scheduled our next industrial get together and Industrial Advisory Board (IAB) meeting for June 2nd-3rd 2015, in the Informatics Forum, University of Edinburgh. Our first draft plan is as follows; please let us know if you have any suggestions or requests for revisions.

2 <sup>nd</sup> June	12.00 noon	Meet for lunch
	13.00 – 14.30	Research presentations from Staff and Senior PhD students
	14.30 – 15.00	Break
	15.00 – 17.00	Research presentations from Staff and Senior PhD students
	17.00 – 18.30	Reception with posters and company booths
	19.00	Dinner
3 <sup>rd</sup> June	09.30 – 11.00	Research presentations from Staff and Current CDT students
	11.00 – 11.30	Break
	11.30 – 13.00	Research presentations from Staff and Current CDT students
	13.00 – 14.00	Lunch
	14.00 – 15.00	Industrial Advisory Board Meeting

### 2. Promoting Industry - Student Communication

At the IAB meeting in October, there was a general consensus that students and industry partners should begin communicating with each other as soon as possible, and that the CDT should facilitate this, largely via the CDT PPar website. To this end, we have created the following pages:

#### - *Our Students page*

This page shows our current students and their research interests, email addresses and photos. We have included the CDT PPar Affiliate Students (see Section 6 for more on this), who did not give presentations at the Kick-off event, as well as our 'core' students. Please take a look, and feel free to get in contact with any of the students who are working in areas of interest to you.

<http://pervasiveparallelism.inf.ed.ac.uk/students/>

N.B.: We have also created a page listing the CDT PPar Steering Committee members:

<http://pervasiveparallelism.inf.ed.ac.uk/steering-committee/>

#### - *Industry Research and Project Ideas page*

Multiple industry partners expressed a desire to suggest ideas, questions or problems that they would like students to research. These project ideas will be a source of inspiration for students, rather than a strict plan for them to follow.

We will post these ideas on our 'Industry Research and Project Ideas' page, which will be available to both current and potential students. The page will also feature projects suggested by PPar supervisors. We will publish the page after receiving more project ideas, but there is a draft page here: <http://pervasiveparallelism.inf.ed.ac.uk/industry-research-project-ideas/>

Applicants to the CDT will be advised to look at this page before applying, as they might wish to base their research proposal around one of the ideas. The topics you'd like to see students research will help guide recruitment decisions, and where appropriate, industrial co-supervisors could be assigned to students before they begin the programme, in future years.



The page will also list our industry partners and their research areas and email addresses (for those who approve this), so that students and applicants can make contact if they would like to learn more about your work or let you know about relevant work they're undertaking.

**Please provide any of the following points of information that you would like included on the 'Industry Research and Project Ideas' page:**

- A title and idea for a research project (or more than one). The description of the idea can be between a couple of sentences and a few paragraphs.
- Let us know if you would be happy to be named personally as an industry partner (in addition to naming your company).
- A few lines about your research area and interests.
- Your preferred email address to be provided on the website. If you'd prefer not to provide your email address, we will list the CDT PPar email address under your project idea and/or research interests, and will note that emails will be forwarded to you.
- A photo of yourself (these will only be used if provided by most of the industry partners).

### 3. Industrial Internships and Request for Information

CDT PPar students will be strongly encouraged to undertake industrial internships during their PhD stage. Internships will give industry partners the opportunity to "try before you buy" - to find out if a given student is suitable for working at your company before they are recruited - and to gain a new perspective from the student. They will give the students a good appreciation of the real-world problems faced by industry, and will make them better-equipped to tackle those problems upon graduation (or earlier).

If your company can offer one or more internships between now and the end of the next academic year (August 2016), we would appreciate it if you could please fill in the Industrial Internship Template at the link below. If you can offer more than one distinct internship, please feel free to fill out a separate form for each topic. We will use this information to populate the "Industrial Internships" page on our website:

<http://pervasiveparallelism.inf.ed.ac.uk/internships/>

**Please fill in the Internship Information Template:** <http://goo.gl/forms/SW1Nn3UB1U>

The core CDT PPar students will not undertake internships until the next academic year, but our affiliated students, and other PhD students within the School of Informatics, will be looking for internships more immediately.

If your company runs a large internship scheme, in addition to providing the link to the internship page, please provide some direction about how to find internships that would be relevant to you personally, and to the students in the CDT PPar. For example, under which headings should they look for internships related to parallelism, concurrency and distribution?

### 4. Testimonials to Aid with Student Recruitment

As discussed at the IAB meeting, potential PhD students often worry about whether undertaking a PhD will actually be useful for securing a career in industry. It was proposed that industry partners could provide testimonials to be displayed on the PPar website, stating their need for PhD graduates, which would help reassure potential students that the CDT programme will be valuable. We will display these on the home page and 'Industry Partners' page of the website.

We would greatly appreciate it if you could provide a quotation illustrating the need for PhD graduates in the areas covered by the CDT PPar, and/or endorsing the CDT PPar programme. Thank you to those who have already provided quotations; we will ask for your permission before adding them to the website.

## 5. Inviting Additional Partners to Industrial Events

A number of our current partners suggested that our industrial events could provide a useful forum at which to meet other industrial colleagues - whether they be people you already know or people you would like to know - or companies who are consumers of the technology you provide. If you have any suggestions as to companies or individuals you would like us to invite then please let us know.

## 6. Introducing the CDT PPar Affiliate Student Concept

In order to spread the benefits of the CDT more widely we have introduced the concept of CDT Affiliated Students. These are PhD students who are working in CDT-related areas and are at least in part industrially sponsored. They will be invited to participate in all CDT events, and will essentially be treated as regular CDT students, except that they will not take the MSc year, and will not be eligible for certain funding which is ring-fenced by our funding body. Our first two affiliates are Arpit Joshi (sponsored by Intel) and Stan Manilov (sponsored by Cirrus Logic).

## 7. Photos from the Kick-off

Finally, you might like to have a look at some of the photos from the CDT PPar Kick-off:

<http://pervasiveparallelism.inf.ed.ac.uk/kick-off/>

Thank you very much for reading. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or input about the above, and we look forward to receiving any information you wish to provide.