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Press Release

Source: Carnegie Mellon University

Carnegie Mellon to Demonstrate Breakthroughs In Cross Lingual Communication and Speech-to-Speech Translation

Wednesday October 26, 3:51 pm ET

PITTSBURGH, Oct. 26 /PRNewswire/ -- EVENT: See Carnegie Mellon University researchers demonstrate new breakthroughs in cross lingual communication and speech-to-speech translation with their colleagues at the University of Karlsruhe in Germany in an international videoconference. Computer science professor Alex Waibel will demonstrate domain-independent, speech-to-speech translation in a lecture, which will be simultaneously translated from English to Spanish to German. Current systems allow translation of spontaneous speech in very limited situations, like making hotel reservations or tourist shopping, but they cannot enable translation of lectures, television broadcasts, meetings or telephone conversations. The new technology fills that gap and makes it possible to extend such systems to other languages and lecture types. Waibel also will illustrate new ways of delivering speech translation services, including an array of small ultra-sound speakers that can deliver a narrow beam of audio in a foreign language to a particular individual, while others nearby hear the same speech in the original language as it's spoken without disturbance. Foreign language translation also can be produced through a system that tracks and measures electrical currents on the surface of a person's cheek and throat as they mouth words instead of speaking aloud. The system takes the signal off of electrodes that recognize muscle movement, translates and delivers it as audible sound in another language. Waibel and his colleagues also will demonstrate delivery of speech via heads- up display and text, a PDA-based pocket interpreter for fieldwork such as medical relief or military operations, as well as simultaneous translation of videos of European Parliamentary sessions.

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WHEN: October 27, 2005, 9 A.M. EDT U.S.

WHERE: 3305 Newell-Simon Hall on the Carnegie I

Parking will be available in the East Campus Garage. Bring your ticket to Anne Watzman at the press briefing for validation.