

# CSAR

c/o Scientific Generics Limited

Harston Mill

Harston

Cambridge CB2 5GG

Telephone: +44 (0) 1223 875200

Facsimile: +44 (0) 1223 875201

(Organising Secretary's Home Number: 01799 525 948)

email: [richard.freeman@genericsgroup.com](mailto:richard.freeman@genericsgroup.com)

CAMBRIDGE SOCIETY FOR THE APPLICATION OF  
RESEARCH

## 'DISTRIBUTED RESEARCH SYSTEMS' (that is, making the most of your research budget)

Jeff Patmore

Head of Strategic University Research, BT Group

*Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2004; 7.30 - 9.00 p.m.*

*The Wolfson Lecture Theatre, Churchill College, Cambridge*

### **Chair and Vote of Thanks:**

This evening's session will be Chaired by Dr Richard Jennings; The Vote of Thanks will be proposed by Mr Robin Bligh. Both are *fully paid up* members of the CSAR Council!

### **About the Lecture: (Jeff Patmore writes.....)**

"Businesses nowadays require access to research programmes which are able not only to support their development programmes but also their production, sales and marketing teams. Technologies are becoming available which researchers could only dream of in the recent past and with market opportunities having to be seized as soon as they appear,

Maintaining a market lead requires an intimate understanding of the latest thinking both in technology and business methods. How then do we construct a cost-effective research programme which supports all areas of the business whilst embracing world-class thinking?"

### **About the speaker:**

Jeff Patmore currently leads all external research for BT (formerly British Telecom), working with leading academics from institutions globally including the University of California Berkeley, Cambridge University, Imperial College, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Stanford University and University College London. His role encompasses engaging with some of the best "business thinkers" in the world and his mission is to ensure that BT participates in collaborations, research and thought leadership which is world-class.

Jeff's career has included the operational management of BT's microwave and broadcast networks, technology leadership of BT's cable TV business and leadership of BT's Internet and Multimedia

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*Italics denote an affiliation other than the University of Cambridge.*

*The CSAR Council is chosen to represent leading scientists and technologies from academe and industry*

programme.

Jeff is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and keenly supports best practice in design.

### **The Organising Secretary adds:**

I met Jeff at an Ilkley Conference some years ago, when he gave a stunning lecture on co-ordinated knowledge systems (a BT speciality, it turns out). Well, he's moved on a bit since then, and now runs BT's distributed research network. Which, I suppose, makes the fullest possible use of their proprietary tools for keeping tabs on everything and everyone.

**Coffee and biscuits available, as usual, in the foyer from ~7.00 p.m.**

**An Important Change:** We are trying **an experiment** for the rest of this term.

We spend more on coffee and biscuits than we do on renting the hall and the services of Jerry Hall, our audiovisual technician! Also, as our lectures become more popular, increasing numbers of non-members benefit from the free refreshments, which are supplied at members' expense.

Therefore, we are going to start charging non-members for coffee etc. The way we'll do this is to instigate a voucher system for non-members. **Members must present this flyer to the server.** Elizabeth Platts has very kindly offered to sell vouchers to non-members on the day (probably for £1 each).

This should help a great deal with our funds, and overcome the anomaly that, at present, our members pay for the visitors' coffee. The CSAR is an unashamedly minimalist organisation (we run everything on a budget of less than £6000 per year). We organise some stunningly good lectures (which are for free, in the best Cambridge style), our lecturers do not get paid (and in most cases do not ask for expenses), so some contribution to the coffee would not go amiss.

### **Personal Note:**

As you can see, I am now back in harness; my spell in the Charing Cross Hospital went very well, and the surgeon (the redoubtable Tim Christmas) was clearly the right man for the job.

Many thanks to our very own Brian Ford for looking after things so well in my absence. I gather we played to packed houses on both occasions!

Best

Richard Freeman  
*CSAR Organising Secretary*