



**The Edinburgh-Stanford Link is a £6m research, training and commercialisation initiative**

The initiative links the UK's top academic computer science research group, the University of Edinburgh, with the world's most entrepreneurial, Stanford University in California.

The Link exploits the commercial potential of this research by transferring knowledge and skills into new or existing companies.

**Key Research Areas**

The Link has funded 20 research projects that investigate aspects of speech and language technology and human-computer interaction.

- **Speech recognition**  
Recognising spoken language and transforming it into text.
- **Speech synthesis**  
Scientists can now recreate human speech with regional and local accents, and emotion.
- **Spoken dialogue systems**  
Advanced dialogue systems enable users to have 'natural' conversations, not learn set phrases.
- **Information extraction**  
Moving from syntax to semantics is the primary goal of information extraction, and Web2.0 ideas.
- **Question and answering**  
Building natural question and answer systems that require no training to use.
- **Summarisation**  
Enabling computers to interpret the meaning of articles, and then also summarise the content.

**Commercialisation**

The Link currently works with a wide range of organisations, from seed-funded start-ups developing their first products to major corporations with offices around the globe.

Some examples include:



**Training**

As part of our efforts to help partner companies develop a more integrated innovation and business strategy, the Link holds a small number of CEO Master Classes each year.



Sean Foote      Jessica Hardwick      Ken Hess      Bill Joos      Mike Lyons      David Cremin

Each session features one speaker – a successful California-based technology entrepreneur or venture capitalist. Classes focus on addressing a singular topic, although sessions are interactive and related topics may be introduced and discussed as the session progresses.

Guest speakers to date include:

- Stephanie Keller-Bottom, MD, Nokia's Innovent
- Bill Joos, Co-founder, Garage Technology Ventures
- Mike Lyons, Vanguard Ventures, Investcorp
- David Cremin, Managing Partner, DFJ Frontier
- Sean Foote, Partner, Labrador Ventures
- Ken Hess, Entrepreneur
- Jessica Hardwick, CEO, Swapthing.com
- Kevin Hartz, Founder Xoom, LP Sequoia Capital