



JOB POSTING

Auto-ID Centre Europe

FROM: Duncan McFarlane

TO: Public

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PHD STUDENTSHIPS

Positions exist for PhD Candidates in the European Auto ID Centre based in the Institute for Manufacturing in Cambridge, England. The project involves collaboration with sister centres based at MIT in the USA and Adelaide University in Australia and is funded by a over 40 industrial sponsors which include Wal Mart, Proctor and Gamble, Unilever, Sun Microsystems, Tesco, Gillette, Intel and SAP. The project is a highly ambitious undertaking and will establish an electronic extension to the Bar Code through low cost electronic tagging which provides a unique identifier for any retail item. Then, by deploying suitable tag reading devices and through appropriate networking, significant advances in supply chain management, manufacturing operations and retail services can be achieved. The Cambridge centre's research is focused on the development of suitable languages which enable tagged products to communicate with machines and devices and on the development of closed loop control systems which support direct interactions between networked products, machines and customers. So called *multi agent* software methods are being used in this development. Applications of these developments in manufacturing, distribution and retail and domestic situations are under consideration. Significant additional details can be found at www.autoidcenter.org.

PhD candidates are sought to work on theoretical issues linked to the language and distributed decision making needs associated with developing Auto ID based control systems. Candidates will also have access to state of the art laboratory and industrial automation facilities to illustrate the scope of these development, and will work closely with industrial sponsors in these demonstrations. The candidates should have a strong undergraduate degree in Industrial, Electrical, Electronic or Control Engineering or Computer Science with ideally either a Masters degree or suitable industrial experience. It is expected that successful candidates will have some of the following skills:

- Control systems: feedback systems, PLC, CNC, robot programming, discrete event systems, system modelling
- Communications: signal analysis, information filtering, sensor fusion
- Computing: object oriented methods, java programming, Linux operating systems
- Industrial engineering: factory layout, machine design

Additionally, some familiarity with Artificial Intelligence methods would be of great benefit

University and College Fees will be paid, together with a maintenance payment of £10,000 p.a. Candidates to start in April or October 2002 are currently being sought.

Further details and an application form may be obtained from Karen Sherriff, Auto ID Centre Europe, Institute for Manufacturing, University of Cambridge, Mill Lane, Cambridge, CB2 1PZ, (Tel +44 (0)1223 765910, Fax +44 (0)1223 338076, email kas49@eng.cam.ac.uk), to whom a letter of application and a cv should be sent so as to reach her not later than 20 February 2002. Technical enquiries regarding the positions can be made to Dr Duncan McFarlane, Research Director, Cambridge Auto ID Centre on dcm@eng.cam.ac.uk