Technology Strategy Board

Assisted Living Innovation Platform

Overview

The Department of Health (DH), the Technology Strategy Board (TSB), the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) and the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) have agreed to fund a number of activities in the area of Assisted Living under the umbrella of the Assisted Living Innovation Platform (ALIP).

The aim of the platform is to significantly advance the technology to meet the demand for independent living from people suffering from chronic long term conditions. Numbers of people with long term conditions is set to grow with the increasing elderly population. The platform will consider the requirements for improving quality of life and wellbeing, and also address the societal challenges raised by health conditions that require a preventative approach.

Innovation Platforms

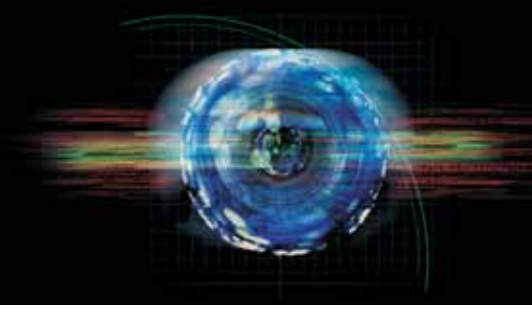
Innovation platforms have been designed to...

address a societal challenge, bringing together a range of technologies and policy and regulatory levers to deliver innovative new products and services for which there are real customers in a potentially large global market

The Assisted Living Innovation Platform was launched at Innovate 2007 in London 8 November 2007.

Scope of the initiative

One of the biggest challenges facing all developed countries in the early 21st century is that of preventing the onset of chronic conditions, delivering care to those with chronic conditions, particularly the elderly, and supporting the more vulnerable members of society. Any 21st century health and social care service will have to make greater use of technology, deliver care closer to and sometimes in, the home and make increasing use of a person's capacity to "self-care" by supporting them appropriately.



Assisted Living Innovation Platform

The first outputs of the Assisted Living Innovation Platform are geared towards beginning to answer some fundamental issues such as scoping a study for a large scale future technology test suite, inclusive design, business/economic models, and some specific nearer term technology challenges. It also begins the process of considering activity in standards, and knowledge transfer.

Research and Development

A wide range of activities is proposed, including single company support for SMEs and research fellowships in business modelling. The initial focus is mostly relatively short term but there are also significant long term components. A scoping study for a future care technology test suite, and for work in standards will be issued separately will be subject to competitive tender. .

The four sponsors will all commit significant levels of funding to this initiative. The TSB will largely support industry, EPSRC and ESRC Universities, and DH the health and care community. It is expected that industry will contribute significant resources of their own to R&D projects.

As well as the existing health and care suppliers, the sponsors wish to encourage expertise from outside the traditional telecare and telehealth sectors. Many technologies are implicated in the Assisted Living technology roadmap (available online) but all are underpinned by the need for user-oriented design.

The priorities

The first priorities for the Assisted Living Innovation Platform, were established in a workshop held in Birmingham on July 19 2007 Subsequent focus group sessions were held to elaborate short term R&D priorities. The first priorities were:

- Developing a large scale future technology test initiative,
- Business modelling,
- User Centred Design.
- Short term R&D, (both single company SME, and collaborative) in:
    - End to end (E2E) systems modelling,
    - The home hub – home based intelligent processing including aspects such as data mining, privacy and trust,
    - Wide area (Primary Care Trust/Local Authority – national) data collection and event management,
    - Value added services for well being, lifestyle and health management – the patient/care portal.

Further short term topics developed from the consultation process include:

- “Anytime, anywhere” integrated access to all present and future services, including a variety of mobile access and location technologies.

Longer term R&D included:

- Complex systems modelling,
- “Anytime, anywhere” access in heterogeneous communications environments, software radio and reconfigurable devices, possibly linked to:
    - Body wearable and implantable body sensor networks. Low cost, low power (scavenging), and miniaturised devices, intelligent agents. Home diagnostics.
    - Long term social studies.

Further information will be made available on the Assisted Living Innovation Platform section at **www.technologyprogramme.org.uk**

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