

# *Fastnet*: Budget Justification

The costs requested for grant support by SFI under the PI Programme are the following, which are uniquely and unambiguously identified with the proposed research programme: The research will require funding for five years as explained by the Gantt chart giving details of Milestones and Deliverables which is included in the main body of the proposal.

## **i. Staff: Salaries and benefits**

We note that SFI-funded researchers and their teams are employees of the research body. Their library fees, network access costs, etc., will be provided by the host Institution. We further note that the salaries requested have been approved and justified according to the current official standards. Salaries for collaborators are not being requested. Nor are we requesting the core salary or benefits of either the lead or co-Principal Investigators. No request is being made for an experienced post-doctoral researcher higher than Level 2, point 1 of the SFI team member budgeting scales. Team member salaries and, fees and stipends for postgraduate students are as specified.

- **PostDoctoral Researchers:** The proposed research will employ two PostDocs for four years each. One during the first year, the second joining in the second year, with a graduating PhD student joining in the fifth year to replace the first. Any activities beyond the fifth year will be funded separately.
- **PhD Students:** The proposed research will employ four PhD students, two from year 1 and the others joining from year 2. We anticipate the completion of their studies within four years.
- **Research Assistants:** Three research assistants will be required to perform maintenance of the corpus and other administrative duties.

## **ii. Equipment**

Details of main requested equipment necessary for the research programme are itemised here. Small equipment of a value of less than 2,000 euros are included in the materials and consumables section. We are not requesting any equipment items in excess of 50,000 euros.

- **Microphones & Recording Equipment:** High-definition microphones with associated preamplifiers, digital recorders and studio furniture & furnishings will be required.
- **Video Equipment:** Firewire cameras, infra-red lighting, eye-tracking devices, lenses and digital encoding & storage equipment will be required, as will capture boards and memory for advanced graphics processing.

- **Computers:** Each Postdoc will require a top-end signal-processing graphics workstation, and all PhD students will be provided with equivalent notebook devices. A photocopier, network-attached file-server, and web-page server with associated digital memory will also be required for storage and dissemination of the corpus.

### iii. Materials and Consumables

Materials and consumables that will be used in the course of the research programme will include the following:

- **Software & Licenses:** Digital recording software and software licenses will be required. Signal processing software
- **Stationary & Office Materials:** additional running costs not covered by the host institution will be covered from this budget.
- **Facilities & Services:** Occasional costs will be incurred in access to facilities and services not available in the host research body, and accessing international databases or commissioning specific experiments in other laboratories.

### iv. Travel

Only travel costs for journeys directly related to the progress of the research programme are being requested as a direct cost on the research grant. This section details travel expenses directly related to conferences, scientific collaboration on the research programme, and learning special research techniques and gives details of team members participating in each event.

- **National Travel:** Two Postdocs and three PIs will travel across Ireland to collect speech data for the corpus.
- **International Conferences:** Key international conferences are Interspeech (annual, to be held in Tokyo in 2010) and LREC (biannual, next to be held in Malta). All researchers on the project will be expected to present at these meetings. In addition, PIs and PostDocs will be expected to attend workshops in Europe and related project meetings (e.g., COST 2102, COST 2103, ECESS, etc.,).
- **Visits to Collaborating Labs:** The PIs will visit collaborating labs annually and PostDocs will be expected to visit at least once.
- **Visits by Collaborating researchers:** International collaborators will be invited at least once a year to participate in the research.
- **Symposia:** Two workshops will be held in Dublin, in the third and fifth years to evaluate the results internationally. Key international personnel will be invited as speakers to these workshops, and their travel & subsistence will be included in project costs at standard rates.