

## Network Action Proposal

Title:	<b>9th International Multisensory Research Forum (IMRF) 2008</b>
Membership number(s)	11, 100
Member name(s)	Andreas K. Engel, Mark W. Greenlee
Member institute/company name(s)	University of Hamburg, Germany; University of Regensburg, Germany
Goals of the action	<p>The IMRF is the world-wide most important conference on multisensory research. Multisensory research deals with the question of how cognitive systems manage to integrate input of the different senses and which behavioural advantages result from using input of more than one modality. Since 1999 the IMRF takes place annually in different cities (see <a href="http://www.imrf.info">www.imrf.info</a>). In 2008 the IMRF will be hosted by the University of Hamburg (<a href="http://www.imrf.info/2008">www.imrf.info/2008</a>). Both applicants for this Network Action Proposal are actively involved in the meeting. Andreas Engel is a member of the local organizing committee, and Mark Greenlee's group is contributing with several presentations. As can be inferred from the program on the conference website, leading scientists in the field participate in the meeting, comprising researchers from neuroscience, psychology, computer science and robotics. Research on multisensory interactions is of high importance both for basic science and for development of technical applications, e.g., in the fields of robotics and brain-computer interfaces. In addition to presentations on neurobiological and psychological aspects of multisensory interactions, there will be several talks about computational modeling of multisensory interactions and new developments in multisensory robots. In addition to paper and poster presentations of attendees, the program features three invited keynote lectures and four symposia that have been selected by the program committee. The three keynotes are held by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Rainer Goebel (Univ. Maastricht, Netherlands) "Design and analysis strategies for multisensory fMRI research: Insights from letter-speech sound integration studies"</li> <li>2. Larry Snyder (Washington Univ., USA) "Early cortical control of the right and left arm reaching"</li> <li>3. David Burr (Univ. Pisa, Italy) "Combining sight, sound and touch in mature and developing humans"</li> </ol> <p>The themes of the four invited symposia are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. "Multisensory integration of audition and vision using multimodal approaches: from neurophysiology and brain imaging to neural network modeling" - Organizer: Amir Amedi (Hebrew Univ. Jerusalem, Israel)</li> <li>2. "Cross-modal reorganization in deafness" - Organizer: Pascal Barone (Univ. Paul Sabatier, Toulouse, France) and Andrej Kral (Univ. Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf, Germany)</li> <li>3. "Role of neural synchrony for multisensory integrative processes" - Organizer: Andreas Engel (Univ. Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf, Germany)</li> <li>4. "Multisensory processing of visual and tactile informa-</li> </ol>

	tion” - Organizer: Krish Sathian (Emory Univ, Atlanta, USA)
Principal activity to which it contributes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Community Outreach</li> <li>○ Scientific Outlook</li> <li>○ Education &amp; Training</li> </ul>	<p><b>Community Outreach</b> Two special issues will be published, one in Experimental Brain Research, one in Restorative Neurology and Neuroscience.</p> <p><b>Scientific Outlook</b> The IMRF is the main forum for international exchange in the field of multisensory research. The presentations (key-note lectures, symposia, oral presentations, posters) reflect the most recent state of the art in multisensory research.</p> <p><b>Education &amp; Training</b> About 80 graduate students have registered for the meeting. Four graduate students will receive a travel award. They were selected on a competitive basis by the program committee and will present parts of their PhD work at the graduate student symposium. All graduate students and postdocs will present their work as oral presentations or posters. There will not be any parallel sessions to allow for a participation in all sessions covering all different fields of multisensory research.</p>
Concrete outcomes of the action (at least one of which should be material suitable for publication on the euCognition website)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Resulting from the IMRF 2008, two special issues will be published, one in Experimental Brain Research, one in Restorative Neurology and Neuroscience. All papers will be peer reviewed.</li> <li>2. Abstracts of the presentations are available online (<a href="http://www.imrf.info/2008">www.imrf.info/2008</a>) as well as in a printed program.</li> <li>3. Contribution of a Cognition Briefing on "Multisensory Interactions" for the euCognition Wiki, written by Brigitte Röder (head of the local organization committee) and Andreas Engel</li> </ol>
Effort in person-days that will be charged to the Network Action (if any)	None
Expected start and duration in months	July 16-19, 2008
Requested funding	<p><u>Travel costs:</u> Travel costs for 3 keynote speakers: 1 speaker from USA = 2.000 €; 2 speakers from Europe, 1.000 € each = 4.000 €</p> <p><u>Other costs:</u> Partial coverage of costs for meeting facilities = 4.000 € Partial coverage of costs for poster sessions and printing of program = 2.000 €</p> <p><b>Total requested funding: 10.000 €</b></p>
Please identify any other sources of funding that contribute to this Action (actions to support events such as workshop and conferences should include an outline)	<p><u>Budget outline:</u> As of July 1st, 220 participants have registered. Estimated total costs of the conference with 220 participants will be</p>

<p>budget identifying the total cost)</p>	<p>74.000 €. An amount of 56.000 € is currently covered by the conference fees. Students pay a reduced fee (180 Euro/210 Euro for early/late registration).</p> <p>Conference facilities, catering: 42.000 €  Social event: 18.000 €  Webpage, poster sessions,  bags, program, salaries 8.000 €  Graduate student awards 2.000 €  Keynote speaker travel: 4.000 €  <b>Total estimated costs: 74.000 €</b></p> <p>Registration fees: 56.000 €  Support by the German  Research Foundation: 8.000 €  <b>Currently available budget: 64.000 €</b></p>
<p>Workshops: <i>official euCognition event</i>  (yes/no &amp; maximum number of members that  can be accommodated)</p>	<p>No</p>