Professional Issues - Group G
Minutes from meeting held on the 31st of January

Present:
- Richard Smith
- Zhuli Peng
- Frank Qian
- Christian Leonard Quale
- Paul-Johan Seim
- Song Xuesong

The meeting was set at 15:06

What technology should we choose?

Since last week we have been posting suggestions to technologies to the Facebook-group, along with advantages and disadvantages of the individual technologies. The three most popular suggestions among the group are 'Control Software For a Wind/Solar Power Optimiser', 'High Temperature Superconductors' and 'Visible Light Communications'. We decide to take a round discussing these technologies and move to a vote on which one we should choose to work with.

Control Software:

There is very little information/precedent with regards to Control Software for wind and solar power generation. Choosing this would involve having to make a lot of assumptions about what the technology will look like, assumptions we are not necessarily qualified to make and that might make the final technology we decide to work with less feasible for commercialisation. However, it is a technology a lot of us like the sound of, and that would probably not be too hard to make a business-plan for thanks to the relatively predictable and precedented nature of Software Development companies.

High Temperature Superconductors:

High Temperature Superconductors is more of a safe choice, and, we think, is probably likely to be chosen by quite a few groups. The applications and the selling-points of the technology are obvious, and it is easy to understand. There is a lot of available research on the topic, and profits would be trivial to calculate based on concrete data relating to how much power could be saved by the usage of them. On the other hand, the overall business-model could be a minefield, as it would be very hard to predict how industry would react to something as 'big' as a high temperature superconductor.

Visible Light Communication:

Visible Light Communication is a relatively new idea that is currently under development in the School of Engineering at Edinburgh. The potential applications of the technology are interesting and fairly straight forward, and its place in the market would be easy to justify. In terms of a business-plan there is some precedent for technologies like Infra-Red and Bluetooth, and the technology could be commercialised by licencing it to devices. On the downside, there is a company already commercialising the technology, and that might make it unavailable for us to choose.

After a vote we settle on Visible Light Communication as our choice of technology. This assumes that we will be allowed to work with it, something we should be able to find out during Wednesdays tutorial.

Division of Work:

There are a few suggestions on how the work should be divided, including splitting the project up in two parts; business and technology, and splitting into smaller groups that each look into a specific aspect of the technology. We decide that it might be best for us all to first get a general idea of the technology, and then make more qualified decisions on how we think it would be sensible to divide the tasks. Christian, who has done some reading on Visible Light Communication for his project, will post some background-material in the Facebook group to allow the rest of the group to familiarise themselves with the ideas behind Visible Light Communications.

A new meeting was agreed upon for the same time next week; **Tuesday the 7th of February at 15:00 in the Crush Hall.**

The meeting was adjourned at 15:25.

Minutes: Christian