

SPEECH

Development of Augmentative Alternative Communication (AAC) technologies and tools for speech impaired population in the aging society

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THE NEED

- **Conservative estimate (Beukelman, D. A Demographic Study. AAC, 1, 17-31) 3-5 potential AAC users per 1000 persons**
- **18% of AAC users are aged 60+**
- **75% of the above use AAC Systems**
- **More than 50% of all systems are low tech**

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EXISTING SOLUTIONS

- **Manual board**
- **Low-tech device (GoTalk by Attainment: a 9 button VOCA)**
- **High-tech device (DV4 and MT4 by Dynavox Systems)**
- **Symbol language**



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SPEECH Project MAIN OBJECTIVE

A New AAC device, based on our patented technology, enabling a comprehensive solution for speech-impaired aging population.

- Mobile handheld device such as PDA.
- Enables recognition of non-phonetic speech.
- Concatenate Text-to-speech (CTTS) with innovative expressiveness feature.
- Enables multilingual use (language-independent technology) and translation.
- Multiple, flexible UIs for different needs, adaptable for both aged and juvenile populations.

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S&T OBJECTIVES

- Usability testing
- Development of the SCS (Speech Clarifying System) speech recognizer
- Ontology support and adaptive language modeling for improved ASR
- Development of a suitable text to speech synthesizer

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MAIN CONSORTIUM PARTNERS

- IBM Research Labs
- Szeged University, Hungary, Faculty of Computer Science
- Potsdam University, Germany, Faculty of Computer Science
- Central Remedial Clinic (CRC), Ireland
- Information Society Open To Impairments (e-ISOTIS), Greece



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