



## **£300,000 Available for Research Projects in Social Networking and Mobile Computing**

### ***Eduserv to Fund Projects at UK Colleges and Universities into How Emerging Technologies Can Benefit Learning and Research***

**Bath, 28<sup>th</sup> January 08** – Eduserv, the not-for-profit IT services group, today announces that it is inviting bids from UK academic institutions for funding for research projects relating to social networking and mobile computing. Initial proposals should be submitted by 5pm on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2008. Successful applicants will then be asked to make a formal application.

Eduserv will consider applications in three areas:

- Online identity – i.e. a persona that an individual establishes in an online community
- The open social graph – i.e. a machine-readable description of the online identities in one or more online communities and the relationships between those online identities
- Always-on Internet access and mobile computing – i.e. the result of the growing availability and use of personal mobile computing devices such as laptops, PDAs, hand-held devices and mobile phones, etc, coupled with an increasingly pervasive wireless network access.

Eduserv is interested in research and development projects that advance the understanding of the impact that these emerging technologies will have on learning and research. Eduserv encourages proposals to focus on the technical, social or political issues in these areas, inside or outside campuses, lecture theatres, libraries, research labs and Internet cafes at colleges and universities. Proposals that combine all of the three areas are particularly welcome.

Funding research projects is part of Eduserv's mission to realise the benefits of IT for learning and research at every level.



### **Notes to editors**

All projects should be undertaken by an individual or team in a UK institution, and show clear contribution to research and effective service delivery within a particular field. Total funding requested will normally be in the range £30,000 - £150,000 and should cost no more than £80,000 per year. The projects should extend over a period of six months to two years and include mechanisms for securing long term impact or sustainability of project outcomes. Further information on criteria is available through:

<http://www.eduserv.org.uk/foundation/grants/0708>.

Research proposal forms should be emailed to [grants@eduserv.org.uk](mailto:grants@eduserv.org.uk) by 5pm on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2008. Those reaching the second stage of application will be asked to make a formal application in April 2008. Applicants reaching the final stage will be invited for interview in May 2008 after which funding offers will be made.

### **About Eduserv**

Eduserv is a not-for-profit, professional IT services group with the mission to realise the benefits of IT for learning and research at every level. Eduserv achieves its charitable mission through the provision of sustainable services and funding research and development. Services include:

- Secure access to online resources (Athens and OpenAthens)
- Licence Negotiation & Management – (Chest)
- Managed web hosting
- Content management (CMS) and web development.

Trading surpluses are used to support the work across the education sector.

**For more information about Eduserv please visit [www.eduserv.org.uk](http://www.eduserv.org.uk) or contact:**

Katy Askew / Kersti Klami  
Racepoint Group (formerly Fuse PR)  
Tel: 020 8752 3207 / 3216  
Email: [eduservUK@racepointgroup.com](mailto:eduservUK@racepointgroup.com)