CALL FOR PAPERS
Organisational dynamics of technology-based innovation: diversifying the research agenda
Manchester (UK) 14th-16th June, 2007

General Chair: Gordon Davis
Programme Co-chairs: Tom McMaster & David Wastell (Salford & Nottingham University)
Organising Chair: Elaine Ferneley (University of Salford, UK)

Although significant progress has been made, technological innovation continues to be problematic for many organisations. It is clearly important to understand why some innovation efforts are successful while others fail – why the same technology that “diffuses” in one context meets only resistance and rejection in others! The aim of this conference is to help move forward our understanding of the organisational dynamics of technology-based innovation by diversifying the research agenda in three general areas. The first objective is to broaden the theoretical base. It is arguable that diffusion theory has been “over-represented” in the Group’s work, and critical papers presenting alternative conceptual lenses and standpoints would be welcome. Extending the variety of research methodologies is another area where innovation could assist our progress. Finally, there are organisational contexts that have been relatively neglected. Much of our prior work has concentrated on commercial enterprises, yet the degree of change (enabled by ICT) in the public sector is at least as great, and the challenges arguably stiffer given the complexity of public agencies.

The Venue: Reflecting the Group’s aspiration to bridge the gap with practice, the conference will be held in Manchester’s town hall. This venue also reflects the public sector agenda that forms one of the conference’s priority themes. Manchester is one of the UK’s major urban centres and having achieved city status in 1853, it was keen to show off its civic dignity. This most impressive neo-Gothic building, completed in 1887, rises majestically 286 feet above Albert Square in the town’s vibrant city centre. Inside, it is lavishly and richly decorated, with mosaic floors and wall murals by Ford Madox Brown.

Deadline for papers: 17 November 2006

For further dates and details see: www.ifip86-2007.salford.ac.uk

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