

PHOTABLE: TODAY'S PHOTO ALBUM - TOMORROW'S COFFEE TABLE

Smart Internet Technology CRC PhD Student takes the photo album into the digital age

SYDNEY, Australia, May 22 – Mr. Trent Apted, Smart Internet Technology CRC PhD Student with the University of Sydney, today introduced PhoTable, the coffee table/digital photo album of the future at the [Cooperative Research Centres Association Annual Conference 2008](#). Mr Apted was one of eight post-graduate students selected from applications received across Australia to present his research project titled *PhoTable, Enhancing the Social Interaction around Digital Photographs* at the conference.

Developed with the primary driver of revitalising social interaction around sharing photos, the PhoTable is set to reinforce the tradition of sharing memories and experiences with families and friends. Designed as a multi-user tabletop interface, the horizontal surface lends itself to a more natural sharing environment and provides a practical, innovative environment to share photos.

Digital photographs are transferred straight from the camera, in a raw state. Multiple users then annotate, crop, zoom in or even create a collage of photos or albums with either a stylus or using their hand, depending on whether it is a touch screen interface or otherwise.

"Our old dusty albums are still important to us however today, with the rise of digital photography, the touch and feel and sharing aspect is rapidly diminishing. People are still creating albums but receiving a link to an online album isn't the same as passing photos around and hearing the stories behind them," said Mr. Apted.

"Printing photos adds cost and hassle whereas PhoTable embraces the digital age. To me this was about bridging the gap between a generation growing up now with digital photography and making it a physical, sharing experience while also moving what isn't digital to a format that will live on forever," said Mr. Apted.

Beyond providing the ideal collaborative tool for sharing photos, the PhoTable could be applied and tailored to a range of industry sectors including education, reminiscence with elderly, publishing i.e. for laying out pages, transport control, gaming and government, for example military, emergency planning and transport control.

The PhoTable innovations are supported by a number of patents as avenues for commercialisation, each of which focuses on unique software designs.

The PhoTable in action:



- Ends -

About Smart Internet Technology CRC

Established in June 2001, Smart Internet Technology CRC (Smart Internet) is an incorporated joint venture between industry, leading universities, the Commonwealth and NSW State Government. Its key purpose is to develop new technologies in the Smart Internet arena, carrying out world-class research into disruptive Internet technologies that have global commercial opportunity.

Smart Internet is focused on commercial outcomes through the development of strong links with industry to take new products and services to market. Industry Partners have an intimate understanding of market demands and Academic Partners have an intimate understanding of the latest developments in Internet technology. It is this synergy that creates an ideal environment for collaboration and commercialisation of scalable, robust and marketable technologies.

Further information can be found at www.smartinternet.com.au

About The CRC Program

Cooperative Research Centres (CRCs) are designed to encourage collaboration between industry, educational institutes and government by transferring research outputs in to commercial or other outcomes of economic, environment or social benefit to Australia.

The CRC Program is an Australian Commonwealth Government program funded by the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science & Research. Further information can be found at www.crc.gov.au