Remote communications
MIKE Larkin

1. Context: Why did your center decide to try a form of electronic communication for a meeting?
   COST AND TIME AS CENTRE EXPANDS LINKS

2. Technology: What technology did you decide to use and why? HAVE USED VARIOUS – ONE LARGE VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING TO DATE

3. Lessons learned: What worked well? What would you do differently next time?
   WILL COME TO THAT…

4. Future Plans: Would you do this again, and why or why not?
   YES WE HAVE TO! – BUT PART OF AN OVERALL STRATEGY
Industrial Members and Academic Partners

The extent of the communication problem

- Now 34 Industrial partners – including multinationals
- Queen’s University Belfast
- Dublin City University (Rol) – **2005**
- Stevens Institute of Technology (US) – **2006**
- Dalhousie University (Canada) – **Nov 2007**
- University of Duisburg Essen – **Nov 2007**
- The Institute for Water Research (Germany) – **Nov 2007**
- Cranfield University (UK) – **May 2008**
- AFBI (NI) – **Under Discussion**
LESSIONS LEARNED...

MAIN MEETING 2008 – JOINT WITH BELFAST AND STEVENS INSTITUTE, NJ
INTERACTIVE VIDEO CONFERENCE – approx 40 people each side and presentations over 4h

5h time difference – we were tired and past lunch – they were like spring chickens recklessly fed caffeine

Travel between sites essential for planning
Plan B – telephone and ppt – Plan C – last resort - lead parallel meetings
Planning time consuming – needs support
CONFIDENTIALITY AND SECURITY???
BETTER TECHNOLOGY NEEDED
NEEDS SOME PERSONAL INTERACTION
"An international partnership between industry, government agencies and academia for industry driven multi-discipline environmental research with a clear emphasis on technology transfer and exploitation”

Have used all of these:

Telephone – Teleconferencing
PPT and videoconferencing
One – to – one online
Lab team - to - lab team online
Briefing industrial members

Email
Text messages
FTP – internet – computer to computer
SKYPE LINKS

All are interlinked and must be used together:
ALONGSIDE SOME FACE TO FACE MEETINGS