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Chris Turnock, Erik Bohemia, Jed Woodhouse, Neil Smith & Ben Lovatt; Opening ICT Boundaries

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Keywords & Précis:

global studio	distributed collaboration	university and industry collaboration
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The paper will introduce a project titled the 'Open ICT Tools' which aims to explore and trial out ICT tools to facilitate a global collaborative and secured engagement with external business and community partners

Short biography of lead author:

Chris Turnock is Head of LTech at Northumbria University with responsibility for enhancing the pedagogical use of technology within the university. He is currently leading the university's participation in the HEA Enhancement Academy initiative and manages several projects including ones to enhance assessment feedback, online assessment completion and marking. Chris is a member of a team involved in the UK JISC (Joint Information Systems Committee) funded Global Studio project.

Abstract:

The paper will introduce a project entitled "Open ICT Tools" which aims to explore and trial out ICT tools to facilitate a global collaborative and secured engagement with external business and community partners. The challenge is to facilitate a communication and multimedia data exchange between Northumbria University and participating external educational and business organisations without compromising the security of either Northumbria University IT infrastructure or that of the partner organizations. This is one of eight projects funded by the JISC infoNet from across the country under its Trialling of Online Collaborative Tools for Business and Community Engagement programme.

The Open ICT Tools project is directly connected with the Global Studio, an innovative model of research-informed teaching and learning. The Global Studio is a cross-institutional collaboration between Northumbria University and international universities based in the USA, Australia, the UK and Korea, as well as industry partners such as Intel, Motorola and Inverness Medical. The Global Studio was initiated by the School of Design three years ago and since then it included nearly 300 students from six international universities such as Hong-ik in Korea and RMIT in Australia. The aim of the Global Studio is to equip design students with skills for working in globally networked organizations, particularly the development of skills in intercultural communication and collaboration. To achieve this aim, students from the participating universities work together on industry-led projects.

This paper explores how various ICTs being trialled in the Global Studio facilitate information and data exchange between students, teachers and industry partners, and how this enables/constrains collaboration.