

■ e-Government think-tank takes shape

The UK's first dedicated e-Government think-tank will be headed by Brunel University's School of Information Systems, Computing and Mathematics (SISCM), it has been announced. The think-tank, titled the Network for e-Government Integration and Systems Evaluation (e-GISE), will assess key areas of research in e-Government, in order to ensure the future success of online public service initiatives.

The e-GISE Network will attempt to increase the understanding of e-government among local authorities, and help them realise the benefits of investing in the technology.



"There is a clear need for a more focussed approach to the practice of delivering e-Government services. The complexity of integrated information systems, the speed of deployment and the novelty of e-Government mean that it is a poorly developed area we can ill afford to neglect," commented Professor Zahir Irani, Head of Information Systems and Computing at Brunel University (SISCM), lead academic behind the e-GISE Network.

"The real problem comes not from technology but the paradigm shift away from a product and process orientated economy to a knowledge based one. E-Government is one of the phenomena engendered by that paradigm shift and local agencies need 'flag pole' research to understand the risks and strategic benefits that can be obtained from it. It is here that the e-GISE Network will contribute by supporting local authorities in the carving out of research areas and bringing together appropriate expertise to frame sound future research proposals," he added.