

Entrepreneurial ID «venture leaders» 2007

«Marianne» «Starlander»

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«Project»: « MedSLT is a spoken language translation system in the medical domain enabling doctors to make a diagnosis of foreign patients »

Industry: «IT and Healthcare»



Biography

Currently a PhD candidate at the School of Translation and Interpretation at the University of Geneva, Marianne has always been interested in informatics and in how to help translators integrate tools in their daily life, which is why she specialized in natural language processing and in IT for translators. She joined the multilingual information processing department in 2000 where she works as a teaching and research assistant. She has always liked to communicate her enthusiasm about computer tools to her students.

Originally trained as a translator, Marianne speaks French, English, German, Spanish and Swedish fluently. She has then obtained a post graduate degree in European studies from the European Institute of the University of Geneva (2000) which shows her capacity to adapt to a variety of domains. She completed a post graduate degree in multilingual information processing at the School of Translation and Interpretation at the University of Geneva in 2001.

This background explains why she has been involved in the research project MedSLT since its start in October 2003, with the aim of developing an automatic spoken language translator capable of breaking the language barrier through innovative technology. She works in a team where linguistics and computer scientists have learnt to communicate efficiently to build this product which they are now willing to commercialize.

Company / project

Have you ever been ill in a foreign country and found it frustrating that the doctor couldn't understand you? Our product addresses the problem of lack of qualified human interpreters in hospitals, especially in emergency rooms. We are offering a cost-effective alternative in the form of a tool for helping physicians perform a verbal diagnosis on a foreign patient. Our approach is unique in that it reuses technologies and information from different medical sub-domains allowing us to offer tailor-made solutions in terms of the languages and diagnostic domains needed. The tool we provide is reliable, always at hand, unlike a telephone based service, and always under the physician's control. Our target customers are hospital emergency rooms. We would like to begin with Swiss hospitals and in the long term expand to the entire healthcare profession worldwide.

We will generate profit by selling a pre-packaged product or by providing the client with a tailor-made solution matching the client's needs, pricing it according to the demand and time needed to build customised version.

Our product, developed by a university team of 10 researchers, is currently in the evaluation stage. We hope to found our company once the evaluation phase is finished in September 2007. In order to do that we need new partners in Swiss hospitals and funding to adapt our product to new domains and languages.