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Abstract

Officially launched by the Honorable Anna Bligh MP and Professor Ian O'Connor in October 2004, IMERSD is a specialist 5.1 surround-sound recording studio, multimedia post-production suite and audio research laboratory. The facility represents the final stage of a 2 year, \$630,000 refurbishment of the Queensland Conservatorium Music Technology Area, leveraging ongoing work over the last five years totalling some \$5,000,000 investment in: a comprehensive range of high-end hardware and software products for high sample rate sound recording, analysis and manipulation; a broad range of highly specialised microphones, pre-amplification and production tools; multiple environments featuring rigorous acoustic and ergonomic designs; state-of-the-art audio, video monitoring and reproduction systems; and dedicated video, audio, data networks, computer workstations and servers. IMERSD is a professional recording and post-production environment which operates as a hybrid commercial model, bridging teaching, research and industry environments; it signifies immersion and engagement as an umbrella concept for community and industry partnerships, student internships, explicit alumni links, research-led teaching and contribution to a creative practice-led research agenda. The facility is designed to undertake large projects stand-alone, or in tandem with industry and commercial partners, and/or other Griffith University elements. Examples of recording, composition and performance, and research projects include: *Meetings in Australian Music Encounters (Encounters)*: in a single week, some 80 compositions were performed by around 200 students, staff and visitors in a series of concerts, nine of which were recorded by QCGU music technology student and staff teams. 10 Music CDs and a double DVD are forthcoming. URL: <http://www.gu.edu.au/centre/qcrc/encounters/>; *Shifting Ground*: to mark the opening of the multimedia research facility IMERSD in October

Intermedia, Music Education and Research Design (IMERSD): Studio Report

2004, The Queensland Conservatorium, Griffith University (QCGU) and the Griffith Film School (GFS) have undertaken a collaborative project involving the production of a short film in 16mm and 5.1 surround sound. The project combines the mediums of celluloid film and electroacoustic music in a hybrid work suitable for entry to international film festivals and electroacoustic music conferences held during 2005/06; and *Gestural Controllers as Human-Computer Interfaces*: During 2004 and 2005 QCGU staff have been actively involved in creative-led research in gestural control using a range of icube-X and custom made technologies. Research outcomes to date have led to the proposal of an international collaborative project (of the same title) scheduled to commence November 2005 (pending approval). The research team will consist of Australian researchers Dr Andrew Brown, Queensland University of Technology, Assoc Prof Norie Neumark, University of Technology, Sydney, Dr Kirsty Beilharz, University of Sydney, Mr John Coulter Queensland Conservatorium, Griffith University and French researchers Dr Frederic Bevilacqua and Mr Emmanuel Flety, Institut de Recherche et Coordination Acoustique/Musique. Creative outcomes to date include multimedia installations at the Brisbane Powerhouse Record (2004) and Memoryscape (2005). In summary, the studio report will present details of current IMERSD projects in audiovisual and spoken format as well as discussing the wider issues of collaboration and commercialisation within tertiary education environments.