

Psand.net

Synopsis 2004

For the year 2004 Psand.net will be continuing to further its work in the areas of communications and the Internet. We have identified three areas of related activity which will be pursued in parallel but under different guises.

Mobile Communications for community networks and outreach

We are in the process of establishing a not-for-profit organisation to further the development and implementation of vehicles that will visit more isolated communities within the European Union. These vehicles will be equipped with bi-directional satellite units and WiFi equipment to facilitate connectivity to the Internet from any location within the EU. On-board there will be computer terminals and video recording and projection equipment as well as facilities for making and recording music: the aim being to facilitate increased awareness of emergent technologies as well as to demonstrate and encourage the use of new technologies in a creative manner.

We are currently investigating funding within the EU and regional development agencies to bring this project to fruition. Our first port of call is with the Welsh Development Agency and we are looking for a partner in the Republic of Ireland to work with us under the Interreg A programme. This kind of project would involve two mobile units that would travel in separate member states, enabling us to create trans-state projects utilising live link-ups via satellite for discussion of shared issues and ideas.

This project brings together many of the key areas where there is much support from both Brussels and regional governments, namely:

- Broadband Internet access.
- Information and Communications Technology (ICT) training and awareness.
- Music technology as a vehicle for education and social development.
- Knowledge development in disadvantaged regions.
- Support for local community networks and content.
- Cultural and social exchange between two or more member states.

This project is tentatively known as "Internet All Areas" at this present time. A new web site will be launched towards the end of March with more information and press releases will be made.

Information and Communications Technology Consulting

Psand.net will continue to offer the professional ICT services that it has done since its establishment in 1996, however we are changing our focus to that of offering independent consultancy and advice based on the wealth of experience acquired during the last eight years of activity within ICT. With special focus on the areas of Internet, free and open source software and communications via satellite, cable and radio, we will continue to provide the high level of professionalism and quality that our clients have come to know us for.

Being the first in Europe to work with satellite and wireless in a mobile, “in-the-field” environment and with ten distinct events behind us, we are in an excellent position to advise other organisations wishing to be involved in mobile communications. To this end Psand.net will provide advice to the newly founded not-for-profit organisation to help further the outreach project.

Arts and performance

Following on from our experience at numerous music festivals and cultural events, Psand.net will be collaborating with several different arts and performance groups this coming summer to provide an interactive environment that will put a creative face to the technology with which we have been involved. We are currently planning to have something ready for Glastonbury festival in June and the Robodock festival in September. For this area of activity, we will be using a new identity with a stronger focus on performance than the current technology-led image of Psand.net. More information will be posted to a new web site to be launched towards the end of April.

About Psand.net

Psand.net was founded in Autumn 1996 with the aim of promoting awareness of GNU/Linux and related free and open source software to encourage its adoption and use in ICT. The main focus of Psand.net with respect to GNU/Linux has always been primarily on its technical superiority, flexibility and reliability, although we are strong believers in the free software philosophy and the work of the Free Software Foundation. Since it was established, Psand.net has worked largely in the arenas of Internet and related services, providing design and development of enterprise-scale web based applications and consultancy in areas of security, network infrastructure, administration, programme-design and accessibility.

In 1998 we started investigating the possibility of taking the Internet into the field using satellite technology. The technology coming to fruition and available to the consumer in 2002, we were the first group in Europe to combine the use of satellite and WiFi technology in a mobile set-up. A large extent of information regarding what Psand.net has done in this arena and how it was achieved has been published on the Internet under the GNU Documentation License, thus reflecting our continued commitment to the “open” philosophy.

More information can be found at <http://psand.net>, by emailing sales@psand.net or by calling +44 (0) 870 162 4927.