**PRESS RELEASE - February 2006**

**Lemur Backed by DTI Award to Develop £1.5million Next Generation Search Engine**

Lemur Consulting, the award-winning search engine company, is part of a consortium that has been awarded a Department of Trade and Industry grant of £815,000 to build a next generation web search engine.

Early web search engines, such as AltaVista, simply presented a list of documents which contained the words given in the query. Second generation engines, for example Google, added other relevance criteria such as page rank when returning a list of web pages.

Now Lemur is helping to develop the third generation of web search engines. These will include deeper criteria for defining the relevance of the results returned. New factors reveal the intention of web page creators and users. For example, is the page designed to review, or sell? Is the person making the query interested in researching, or buying?

With over ten years experience of specialising in all aspects of data management, Lemur's software team is active in the development and support of many of today's leading information retrieval products. This placed the company in a strong position to succeed in the DTI-led Technology Programme competition for a £1.5million web search engine project to be developed over two years.

Welcoming the new partnership, Science and Innovation Minister, Malcolm Wicks said: "The UK has a proud history of innovation in science and technology. We believe that we must work with industry to develop the marketable products and services of tomorrow, so that we can maintain our position as a leading global economy.

"That's why we're supporting this project to develop the next generation of search engines. It provides a great opportunity to harness the UK's world-class expertise and use it to help boost our economy."

Commenting on this latest award, Lemur's Managing Director, Charlie Hull, said "We were delighted to get through the two highly competitive application rounds to be awarded this prestigious grant. These plans for the next generation of web search engine are very exciting and we are looking forward to working with an interesting group of organisations to achieve them."


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**Editor's Notes**

**About Lemur Consulting**

Based in Cambridge, UK, Lemur Consulting Ltd (www.lemurconsulting.com) is highly active in the information retrieval market with international clients from sectors including academia, public relations, e-commerce, government and private businesses.

Lemur's Flax™ project (www.flax.co.uk) delivers a cutting-edge enterprise search solution, using the power of open source software to drive down costs and provide world beating search performance with no software licence fees.

Lemur is also the developer of Bamboo™, a collaborative, web-enabled, multimedia database system used by academics and researchers.

This latest DTI award to Lemur follows an award from the British Computing Society in 2005 for an innovative search tool.

**About the Technology Programme**

The Technology Programme provides funding using two of the DTI's business support products: Collaborative Research & Development and Knowledge Transfer Networks. Over the period 2005-2008, £320 million in funding is being made available from DTI to businesses to support research and development in technology areas identified by the Government's Technology Strategy Board. This funding is increased by contributions from other Government Departments such as Defra (£30m), Regional Development Agencies and Devolved Administrations (£30m) and Research Councils (£26m).

The Programme is investing directly in new and emerging technologies and has been designed to help businesses work collaboratively with each other or with academic partners to develop technologies that will underpin products and services of the future.

In November 2006, DTI announced that, building on its success to date, the Technology Strategy Board would in 2007 become an Executive Non Departmental Public Body taking over responsibility for the delivery of the Technology Programme.

Since 2004, the Technology Programme has supported over 600 projects across 40 technology areas with a combined business and Government investment worth over £900m. 22 Knowledge Transfer Networks (KTNs) have also been established with funding of around £40m over 3 years. For further information: http://www.dti.gov.uk/innovation/technologystrategy.