



“Sounding a better tomorrow”

Perceptral Awarded Navy SBIR

Racine-based Perceptral has been awarded a contract by the U.S. Navy under the Small Business Innovation Research program. Under the contract Perceptral will apply its proprietary technology to solving the problem of variable speed speech synthesis, with the intent to produce high quality, intelligible synthesized voices for use in training modules by the Navy and related agencies. Perceptral was founded in 2008 by Dr. Jonathan Pearl as a Wisconsin Limited Liability Company.

Perceptral's approach to sound segmentation holds great promise for revolutionizing the handling of speech prosody in a wide range of applications. A direct result is enhanced functionality for analysis and modification of speech prosody, including rate of speech, intonational contour, regional accent and dialect, and vocal timbre.

Intended products include automated speech dubbing, pedagogical tools for accent reduction and acquisition, prosthetic voices, and animated voices for the entertainment industry. Perceptral seeks to position itself as the premier sound technology firm focused on speech prosody and the development of tools for analysis, modification, morphing, and blending of speech, music and other sounds. The company offers consulting services to agencies and businesses that use or provide speech technology, and is developing stand-alone software for individual and commercial end-users.

Dr. Pearl received his PhD in Music with a Cognitive Science emphasis, from the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) in 2005. During 2003-2004, he received a Fulbright grant to the Czech Republic to support his dissertation research on the speech melody transcriptions of early 20th century composer Leoš Janáček. Subsequent to his PhD, he served two years at UCSB as a post-doctoral visiting scholar in the Department of Linguistics, where he continued research on the rhythms and melodies of spoken language. Last spring he relocated his R&D efforts from southern California to Wisconsin. He currently lives with his wife and three sons in Racine, Wisconsin.

Perceptral received invaluable assistance in the preparation of this SBIR proposal from David Linz & Commander Pat Dillon (U.S. Navy Reserves), Southeast & Northwest Regional Directors of the Wisconsin Entrepreneurs Network (WEN). Dr. Pearl intends to continue close consultations with WEN and the staff of the Sturtevant-based Center for Advanced Technology and Innovation (CATI) in seeking growth for Perceptral and to expand technology innovation and opportunities in Wisconsin.

For more information, contact us at: info@perceptral.com.