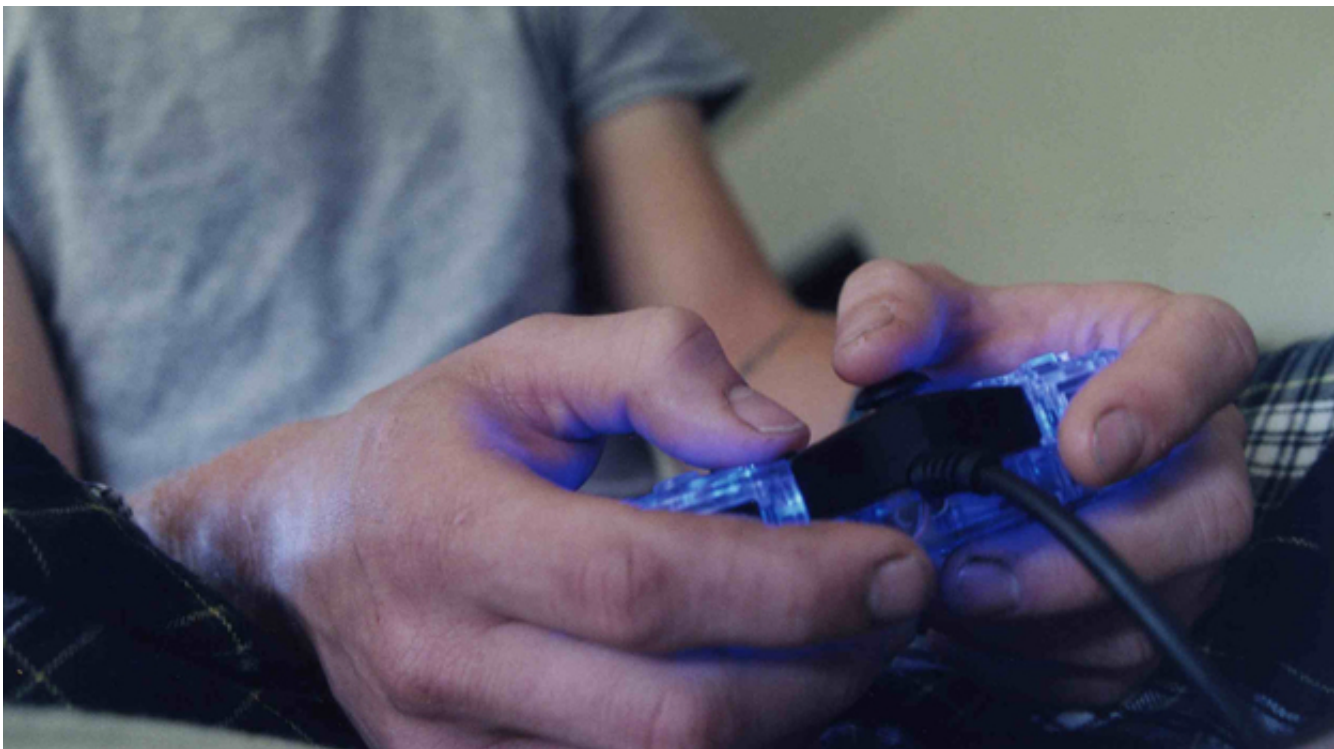


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Students awarded top award for smooth talking

By Malcolm McCurrach

19 July 2011 10:27 BST

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Speech Graphics hope to improve the gaming experienceRebecca Pollard

Students from Edinburgh University are waxing lyrical after being recognised in a national award for developing some leading speech software.

The fledgling entrepreneurs set up a company, Speech Graphics, that develops animation software for video games which they describe as "the most natural looking speech animation in the world".

Judges at the Santander Entrepreneurial Awards recognised the work of Speech Graphics to develop a low cost solution to one of the most difficult problems in modern video games - realistically creating speech-synchronized animation - and awarded them third place.

The company has developed the low cost solution, based on research carried out at the University's School of Informatics, for video games producers seeking to animate characters.

Michael Berger, of Speech Graphics, said: "We're delighted at this recognition of our company and our technology, which provides the most natural looking speech animation in the world, at low cost, for today's highly realistic video games."

The university has a long history of helping staff and students turn their ideas into businesses and Edinburgh Research and Innovation, its commercialisation arm, created 40 firms in the last academic year, a record for a Scottish University.

Picture: [Rebecca Pollard](#)

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