

# Priorities for Future Research on Accessible ICT

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## Mainstream for most, specialised where needed

- Serving diff. needs via mainstream solutions = best scenario
- But: constrained by real world
- Mainstream by definition < > highly specialised needs
- Examples: braille keyboards, screen readers, sign language avatars,...
- Specialised/Assistive technologies as *extensions* of mainstream
- Requires open interfaces and APIs – seamless connecting assistive technologies to mainstream



## The Technology is not the Objective

- No Technology for its own sake
- It's about people
- People buy solutions, experiences – not technology
- Must address barriers to participation and citizenship
- Within our society, not in parallel
- Getting New Technologies adopted by target audience: needs plan + support



## Current Technology Drivers?

- Social networking and personalised communication
- Content is king
- Connectivity + networking – “Smart” solutions
- Cloud based storage and processing
- Alternative input solutions: motion sensors, wands, gesture control,...
- Context and location based solutions



## Get beyond requirements and pilots

### Ofcom Report Uncovers Major Accessibility Research Gap

Communications, technology and broadcasting companies are currently carrying out "very little research" into the accessibility requirements of consumers and the needs of disabled people, a new report has found.



- We have lots of user requirements analysis, research, reports, projects
- But often not used by commercial design
- No more pilots/demonstrators: we need to move on to deployments, adoption; otherwise: people are left behind, some worse off than in the past
- Up-front accessibility, inclusive design – otherwise you're always behind (= disenfranchisement)

## Research Topics

### DO

- Battery technology
- Ubiquitous user preference and ability profiling
- True “Smart” (= connected) solutions
- AI
- IPv6
- Spectrum sharing, co-existence, new wireless technologies
- Robotics

### DON'T

- Invest in niche, legacy technologies
- IPv4



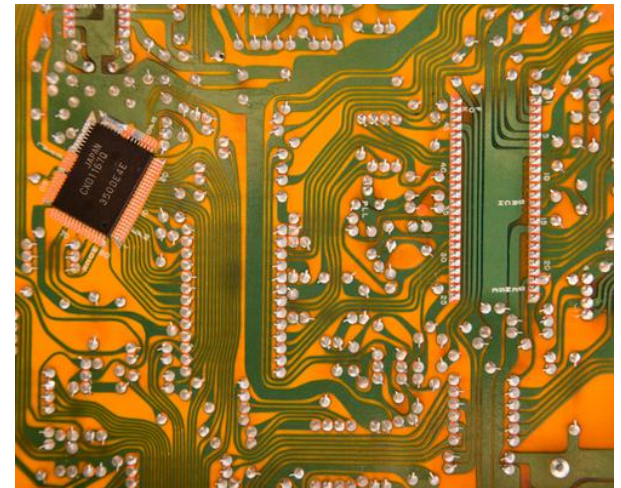
## Strategy

### DO

- Open standards based solutions, part of mainstream track + interoperability
- Integrate accessibility from start in mainstream projects
- Consider accessibility/usability in context of providing a better experience to all users/consumers
- Insist on real-world business plan
- Funding tied to real world accomplishments
- Actively ensure best practice is shared, adopted

### DON'T

- Reinvent the wheel
- Confuse technology research with policy making
- Fund research for an imaginary world
- Only pursue reactive strategies
- Make up the business case



## Thank you for listening

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