



Embryo



Vision

Enrich the learning experience at BITS Pilani.

Mission

Make the academic and industry experience of BITS alumni accessible to on-campus students through lectures, collaborative research projects, and exposure to current research trends around the world.

Why Embryo?

Over 200 BITS Pilani alumni are professors at various universities in US alone while at least 15,000 alumni have graduate degrees and work in technology or other industries around the world. The sheer numbers coupled with extensive research and business experience of the alumni provides a rich pool of knowledge that can easily be tapped into to augment the quality of research and academic experience at BITS Pilani.

With a large number of BITS Pilani alumni spread globally, it is difficult for them to travel to Pilani to share their knowledge and experiences. *Embryo* aims at removing this distance barrier by leveraging the Internet and video conferencing technologies so as to enable alumni anywhere in the world to deliver online lectures to students at BITS Pilani. The project also aims at fostering collaborative research among alumni, BITS faculty and students.

Three Fold Approach

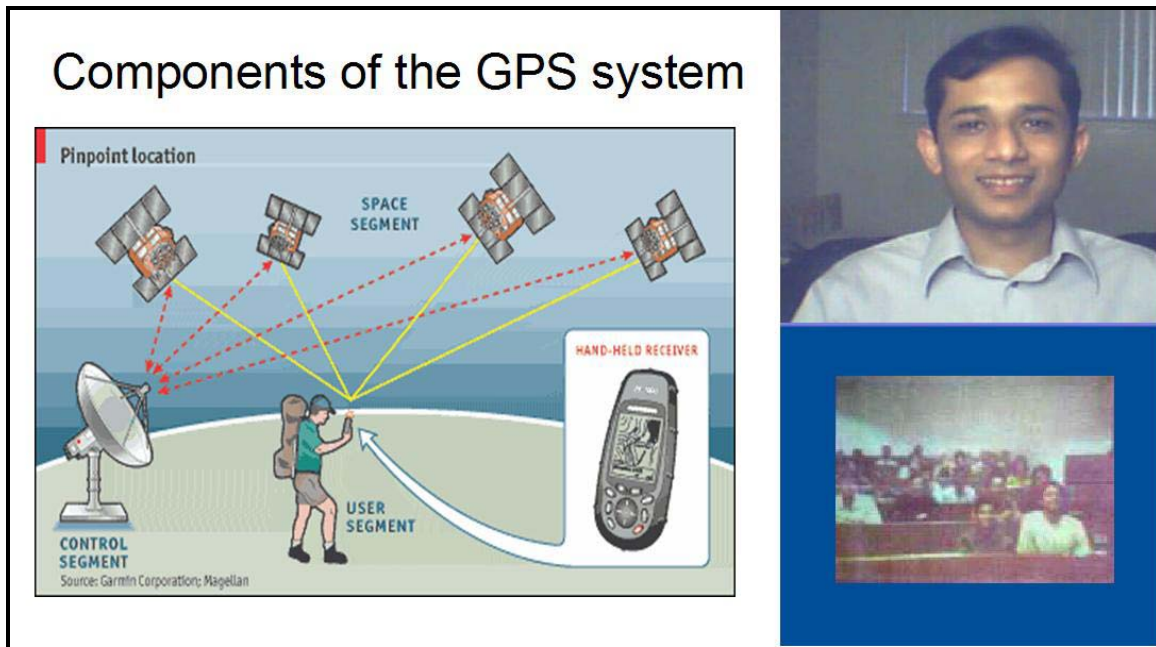
Embryo plans to

- Complement BITS Courses through video lecture series
- Facilitate collaborative research projects between alumni and BITS
- Expose students to current research trends and provide guidance for pursuing research projects

Available Infrastructure

In 2003, BITS Pilani alumni raised \$750K for *BITSConnect* to give BITS Pilani a state-of-the-art campus with a wide Gigabit network called *Neuron*. *Embryo* uses this infrastructure to connect BITS Pilani alumni with BITS Pilani campuses over the Internet.

Any BITS alumnus can co-ordinate with the *Embryo* team and successfully deliver a lecture from his/her home or office. A PowerPoint presentation with a video is projected on the screen in the lecture hall at BITS. It is a two-way connection and the session is interactive where students can ask questions.



Embryo in Action in the BITS classroom

Project Status

Embryo is being executed in a very organized manner by a team of alumni in the Bay Area and in India in coordination with BITS Pilani.

As of 1st May 2006 the first phase of the project is complete. Four live lectures have been successfully delivered over the internet.. Given the nature of delivery, this program can easily be scaled to benefit all BITS–Pilani campuses.

The *Embryo* team is working with Prof. Rahul Banerjee, Assistant Dean of Distance Learning Division BITS Pilani, and the BITS alumni to plan out a series of 30 lectures for the first semester of the academic year 2006-2007. These lectures will be delivered as guest lectures or seminar series and will be an integral part of the BITS curriculum.

How can you contribute?

You are at the very heart of this project.

- If you are a faculty in the academic world, you can give guest lectures or teach an entire course at BITS.
- If you are a MS/PhD student doing research, you can talk about current research areas, motivate students of your discipline to take up research projects or help them apply to graduate schools.
- If you are working in the industry, you can bring the industry perspective to the coursework at BITS, and give guest lectures on current trends in the industry. You can also talk about topics that supplement existing curriculum.

Contact Us:

Website: <http://www.bitsembryo.org>

Email: Shashikant Khandelwal kshashi@bitsaa.org, Mayur Shah mayur@bitsaa.org