

FORECASTING THE FUTURE WITH MARMIX

Do you believe that a robot can be faster than a human to detect a ringing phone? Play and bet on the outcome of MICS projects and enter the world of predictive markets with Marmix...

Marmix is a website that enables to predict - with a strong probability - the outcome of various MICS projects. Based on the theory of the predictive markets, it has been

conceived within the framework of a research project of the Faculty of the HEC of the University of Lausanne. Similar to stock market games, it lets participants trade on claims concerning mobile information and communication systems.

"After having designed Marmix to predict the results of all sorts of future events in the world, we wanted to see if we could use it for R&D issues", explains Cédric Gaspoz, a PhD student at the Institut des systèmes d'information of the HEC, who designed the website.

Marmix was therefore adapted to the NCCR MICS, proposing "contracts" on four topics related to the Centre: avalanches, robots, vehicular networks and intelligent buildings. Two other contracts concern the RFID technology and mobile payments.

Launched at the MICS Conference in October 2006, Marmix counts around thirty traders today. "We hope to increase this number with a better information on this game and on its purpose", says Cédric Ga-

nologies and applications. It can be an extremely useful decision-making tool for the MICS community.

The website is only open to the scientists involved in the MICS Centre. Traders remain totally anonymous. The more the player knows, the more likely he is to predict correctly and win. His objective is to maximize the value of his portfolio by trading the contracts on the market with a starting capital in a virtual currency. The process is then equivalent to those existing in the traditional financial market. The result is a permanent poll of experts who foresee what will happen next!

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Marmix allows to bet on the future of a project just like at the stock exchange

In each one of the next MICS Newsletters, we will select a contract and present its trends, commented by a scientist.

spoz. Compared to other studies, the interest of this predictive market is its low cost and its capacity to forecast the most promising tech-

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