

September. This construction was funded by the JISC project SAGE, Stereoscopic Access Grid Environment.

The next similar major international events to be made available over the Access Grid are the Fifth Virtual Conference on Genomics and Bioinformatics and SC Global 2005, for which cheese and wine will be provided to encourage attendance at the late sessions. We hope to see you all there.

For more information on these events, please visit http://www.virtualgenomics.org/vcgb/conference_2005.htm and http://sc05.supercomputing.org/programs/sc_global.php.



Figure 2: Manchester Computing's portable passive stereoscopic unit, showing 'intoxication' a 3D art piece by Karen Grainger.

ISC 2005

Carl Ward

Manchester Computing, University of Manchester

This year ISC2005 in Heidelberg celebrated its 20th anniversary. The conference began its life as the Mannheim Supercomputer Seminar in 1986 when it was attended by 80 participants. This year's annual event saw attendance swell to over 650 participants from 30 different countries.

The University of Manchester has held a booth at ISC since 2001. This time I hosted the booth along with Mike Pettipher and James Perrin. It was my first visit to the conference and apparently I was lucky enough to help host a particularly busy year. For the first time in the event's history the organisers had decided to release over 80 exhibition day passes which increased attendance. Over the three days I was able to speak to people from a variety of institutions and organisations including Warsaw University and the Joint Supercomputer Centre in Moscow.

Mike and James attended a number of the conference presentations, including the opening day's keynote presentation "Progress in Supercomputing: the Top Three Breakthroughs of the Last 20 and the Top Three Challenges for the Next 20 Years" given by Horst Simon. James also worked on the booth to demonstrate Reality Grid's computational steering, on-line visualization and check-pointing tools. The evening's Get Together Party included the biggest bowl of ice cream I've ever

seen in my life, all flavours heaped together to form an impressive mountain.

The following day saw the Steve Louis keynote presentation "Peta-scale Computing During Disruptive Times". Visitors continued to peruse the work of Manchester Computing and this day, being the most hectic, passed very quickly. In the evening it was time for the ISC 20th Anniversary Gala Event which took place at the idyllic Castle Neckarbischsheim, a former bishop's residence. Excellent food and drink was served, including spaetzle, something I'd never had until this my first visit to Germany, it's an alternative to the potato (tiny noodles or dumplings made with flour, eggs, water or milk, salt and sometimes nutmeg) - very nice but think I prefer the trusty spud. The Gala Event was a great opportunity to meet fellow participants in a pleasant location away from the confines of the conference hall.

Wolfgang Gentzsch's keynote speech on the final day entitled "Grid Computing in Research and Business around the World", brought ISC2005 to a close and ended the event's five year association with Heidelberg. Sadly this was the last time the conference will be held in this beautiful part of Germany. Next year it moves to a new home in Dresden and promises even further improvements to what is an already well attended and respected event.