Distributed version of the software engineering project course

Last fall we piloted a global variant of our project course together with Gjøvik University College in Norway. The project team consisted of students from both universities, and the students developed software together. The students were given tools such as Confluence, JIRA, Skype etc. to coordinate their work. The lectures of the course were replaced with four longer seminars that we organized over video conference, and in the lecture context we have included topics relevant for global software projects.

One of our problems in the first implementation was lack of realistic topics. Our local variant of the course benefits from realistic topics from industry and the students appreciate the link with the industry. This letter is now a "call for topics" for our distributed version. We would like to get topics and involvement of companies who are interested in global/distributed software development because we feel that this would make the distributed version stronger.

We also have another interesting change since next fall Outi Sievi-Korte will completely concentrate in the topic of global software development since she got three-year funding from Academy of Finland. The topic of the research is "Optimizing Global Software Projects with Fuzzy Meta-Heuristics".

Would you have a project topic for one of the teams?

We hope that:
- Topics are challenging but reasonable for teams of 5-6 members working during ~4 months (total ~800h). We also need to take into account that work distribution will reduce the performance especially in the beginning.
- Results of the projects should be complete and working systems – a demo is not enough. For example, testing is included. For creation of a new concept and demo, Demola Academy is an excellent platform.
- The topic owner can play a role of customer at end of sprints
- The used technologies are compatible with our infrastructure. The default tool set is Confluence+JIRA for project management, HTML/JavaScript/CSS for client, and Java/JUnit/Maven for server-side.
- The topic should be open and no NDA is required. The teams need to discuss their work with the teachers and other teams.

What, when?

The course starts around the end of August 2014, so we would like to get your project topics by 15.8.2014. Description of the topic should include:
- Problem to be solved and essential high-level requirements, expected outcome of the project
- Target platform and other constraints, such as programming language, operating system, etc.
- Additional essential information
- Contact information

There will be no guarantee that your topic will be selected by any team, but good topics are picked first. You will be given a chance to pitch for your topic in early September. To send your proposal or to ask for more information contact:

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