

Expertise and insight

for the future

# Project to aid international media engineering students to graduate

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# The main problem

- International media engineering students are not graduating on time
- Work placement is missing from many students
  - Cause somewhat unknown
- Many students do not get the real benefit of work placement, because of secondary job positions
  - Might affect the possibilities to be employed after graduation

# Previous approaches and means

- **Lab assistants**
  - Students are hired as lab assistants
  - 4-8 annually (2-4 international)
  - Problems: lack of orientation and supervision, scheduling and load balancing
- **“ADP-Program”**
  - Multidiscipline teams
  - Real client, involved in meetings and reviews
  - 15 ECTS
  - Course-like, but without lecturing
- **Work placement assistance**

# Solution 1.0

- “Let’s create a business-like environment and do some web developing”
- Two clients with real projects and needs
  - Clients know the outline for the project
  - Results are expected
  - UAS will handle the risk
- Hire 10 students to work as two small development teams
  - Independent work, full-time for 4 months
  - Different roles + team leader
- Intensive training on subjects if necessary

# Questions

- Is it possible to create a credible working environment inside university?
- Can students be used in real projects with deadlines and responsibilities?
- How will the motivation hold up when difficulties appear?



# Client project 1: Trainer's manual to mobile application

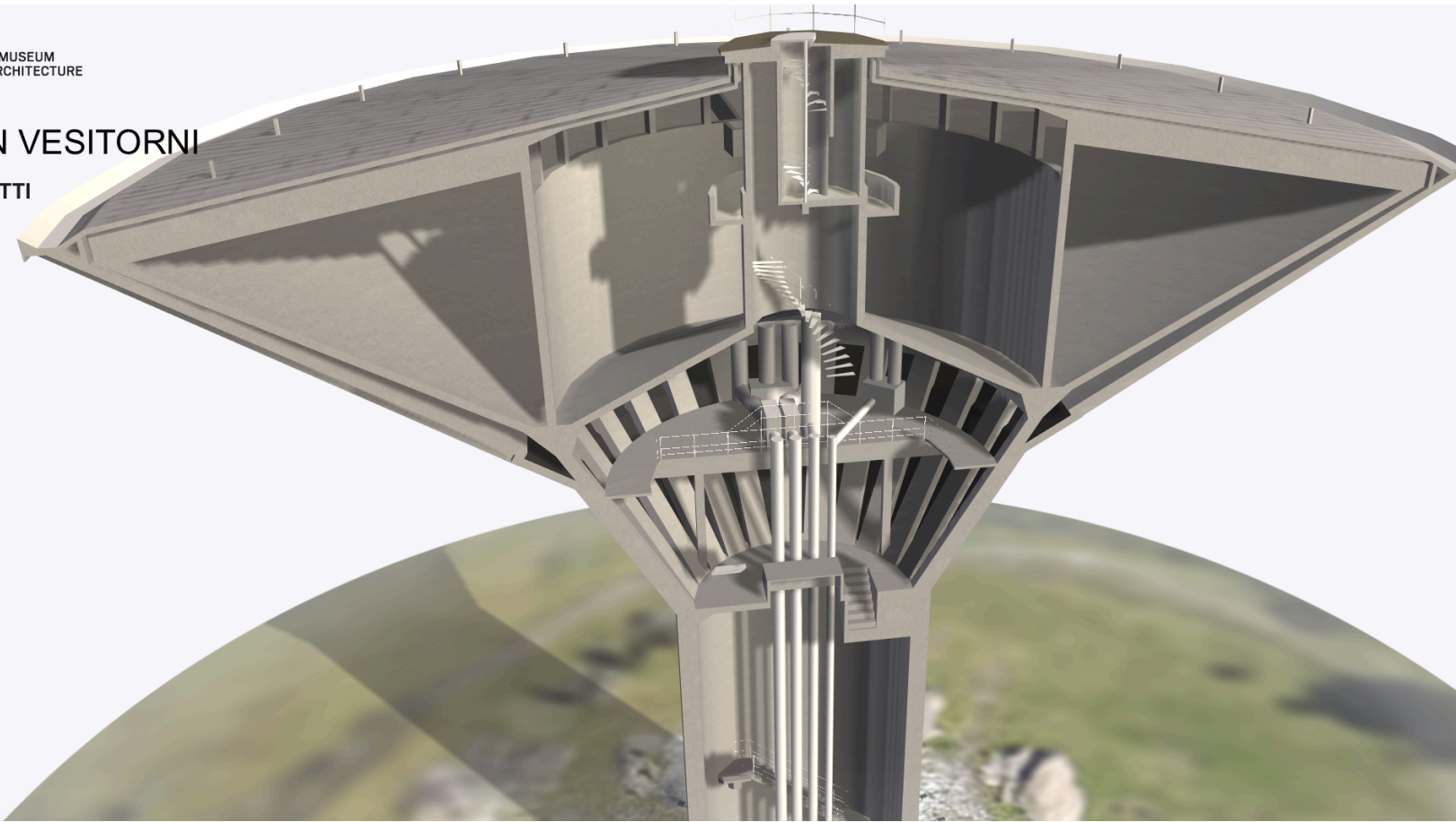


# Client project 2: Backend + frontend for displaying AR models of buildings



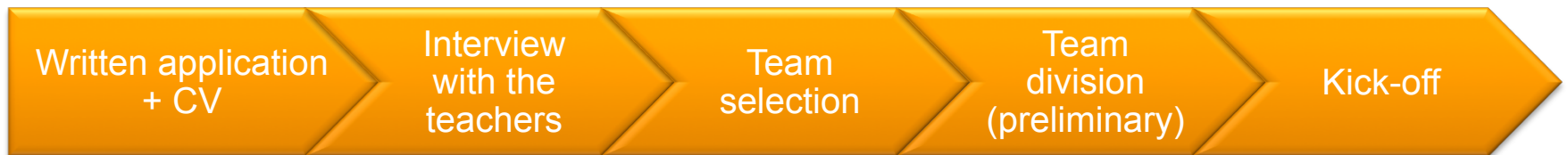
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# Team building

- Media engineering students were approached through intranet with a basic job advertisement
  - Target: 10 students with varying background and skills suitable for the project
- Three staff members
  - Two with web/mobile development background
  - 200 hours as a resource
- Process:





# Routine operations – The plan

- Regular meetings
  - Weekly between the team and the teaching staff
  - 2-4 meetings with the client/month (clients are committed to this)
- Project planning and tracking
  - Either light SCRUM or Kanban
  - Weekly individual time tracking
- The need for intensive courses is monitored by the teachers

# Motivation

- Students will get
  - 30 ECTS (work placement)
  - Small compensation + bonus incentive
- Team will work in their own open office
- Job experience
  - CV material
  - Responsibility



# Risks

Students will not  
show up after  
summer

Skills are not  
adequate for  
project  
requirements

Time limit is too  
strict

Technical  
difficulties

Individuals  
instead of team

Staff resource is  
too lean and  
agile

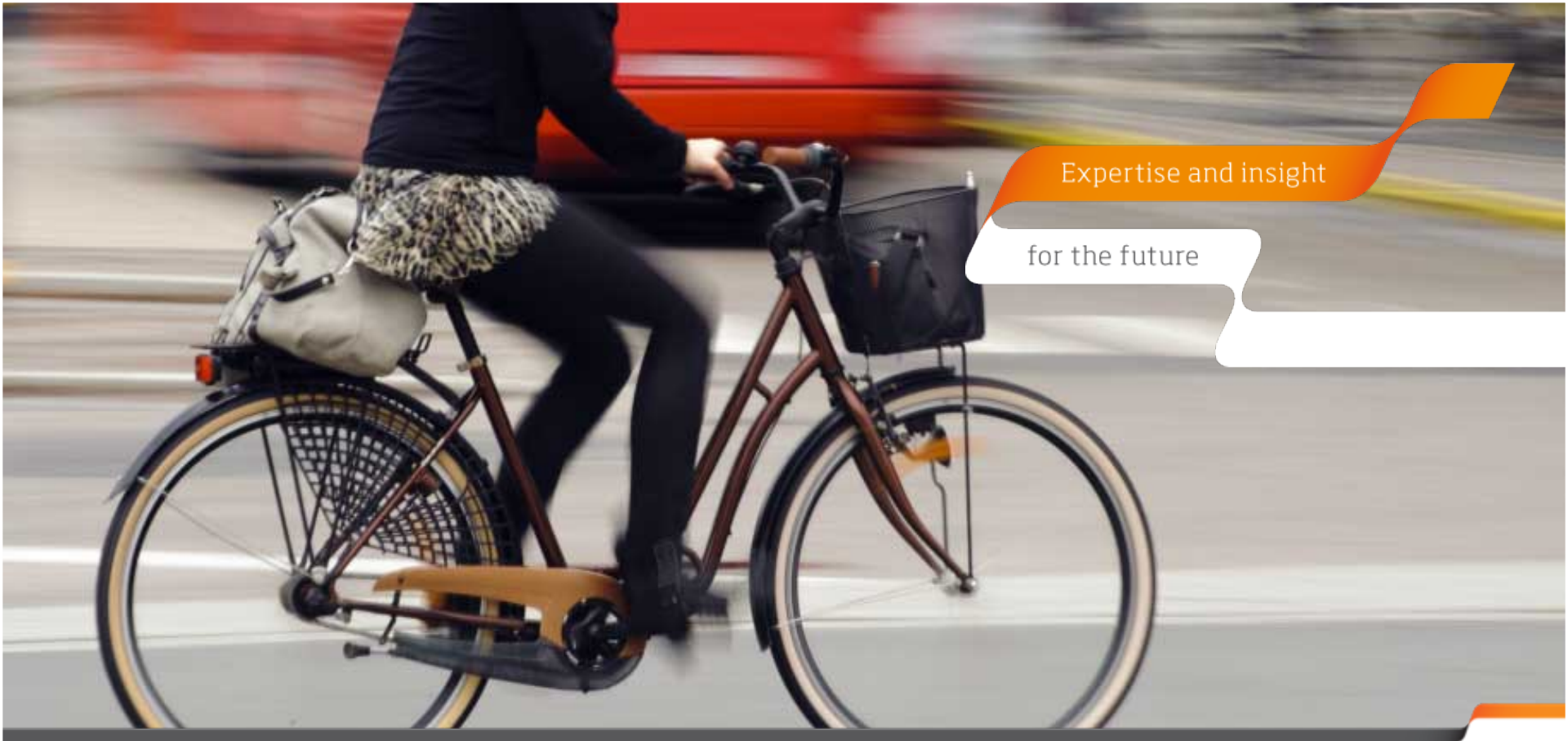
# Project – so far

- Expectations: 20-30 applications
  - Reality: 5 applications from media engineering
- Team has 9 members
  - Content producer still missing
  - No cancellations so far
- Project will not run out of things to do
  - Students and staff are concerned, but for different reasons
- Research focus has shifted to the action-phase

# What next?

- Project itself starts at mid-August 2015
- Team is under research (action-research) during the whole period
- If project is successful, it will be turned into a concept for wider use inside the UAS





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**THANK YOU! ANY QUESTIONS?**

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