



BANGALORE, NOVEMBER 14-20, 2005

WORLD-INFORMATION CITY

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<http://world-information.org>

WORLD-INFORMATION CITY

GLOBAL INFORMATION LANDSCAPES AND URBAN TRANSFORMATIONS

World-Information City is a one-week programme of events addressing global issues of intellectual property and technology in conjunction with changing urban landscapes.

Held at India's IT metropolis Bangalore, World-Information City is a cooperative project of the Institute of New Culture Technologies/t0 (Vienna), Sarai CSDS (Delhi), Waag Society (Amsterdam), ALF (Bangalore), Mahiti (Bangalore) and local partners.

The programme brings together researchers, artists and activists from Europe and South Asia. It consists of a conference, workshops, an exhibition, a public campaign, and a series of musical and art events based on electronic media, and has been produced with the financial assistance of the EU's EU-India Cross Cultural Programme.

For more details, see <http://world-information.org>



WORLD-INFORMATION CITY CONFERENCE > DATES: 17 - 18 NOVEMBER, 2005 > VENUE: CUBBON PARK AUDITORIUM

The conference segment of World Information City brings together panels, discursive and research based presentations and conversations on "Information" and the "City" as societal and political realities, with a particular emphasis on their interrelationships. We hope by doing so we are able to speak not only to the broad themes of information, society, politics and history but also to the concrete realities of "World Information Cities" such as Bangalore.

Information - by which we mean the gamut of practices and processes of knowing and making known the world - can also be seen as that constellation of embodied intellectual labour, accumulated cultural capital and evolving knowledge systems that play a key part in the maintenance of the fabric of contemporary existence. In particular, the increasing importance of information in all its social expressions is becoming manifest in physical environments, and above all, in the shaping of urban spaces. The power structures that shape information as "intellectual property" are impacting more and more on the design of urban environments, often unhinging notions of social equality and giving rise to practices of disobedience.

But while information and its interaction with urban environments are part of everyday experience, it remains a grossly under-

theorized category. World-Information City, and the conference that is placed at its culmination, is an effort on our part to inaugurate a set of discussions that we hope will inform future work in this area as well as contribute to debates within the public domain.

The conference aims to initiate reflections on the histories of different information regimes and on the transformations of urban spaces in the emerging global information economy. It looks at the realities of intellectual property, surveillance and censorship and at efforts to counter them, and discusses the founding and sustaining of the "commons" of information, considering ways in which practices of knowledge uphold, transgress or subvert governing protocols of social, cultural and political life.

Conference Editors:

Konrad Becker
Institute for New Culture Technologies / t0, Vienna

Lawrence Liang
ALF, Bangalore

Shuddhabrata Sengupta
Sarai-CSDS, Delhi

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, 17 NOVEMBER

- 10:15 - 11:15 **Welcome**
Lawrence Liang (Alternative Law Forum, Bangalore)
- Statement of Partnership**
Paul Keller (Waag Society, Amsterdam)
- World-Information.Org (Introduction)**
Konrad Becker (Institute for New Culture Technologies, Vienna)
- Official Opening**
Thetis Tsitidou (EU-India Programme)
- Faultlines Considering Fissures in Information and Society.**
Shuddhabrata Sengupta (Researcher-Practitioner, Artist, Writer, Sarai-CSDS, Delhi) - Keynote Presentation
- 11:15 - 11:30 Tea break
- Global Information Landscapes and Urban Transformations in Asia**
- 11:30 - 13:00 **Analogue to Digital Valorising Peripheries to Fear New Hydras**
Solly Benjamin (Urbanist, CASSUM, Bangalore) - Presentation
- 13:00 - 14:00 Lunch break
- 14:00 - 16:00 **Cyborgs and Cyber Cities How City Space and Labouring get inflected by Information in Bangalore and Delhi.**
Nishanth Shah (Research Scholar, CSCS, Bangalore)
Iram Ghufuran (Researcher-Practitioner, Sarai-CSDS, Delhi) - Panel
- 16:00 - 16:30 Tea break
- Implications of IP on Knowledge / Culture Production**
- 16:30 - 18:00 **The Organization of Knowledge and Culture Production.**
Felix Stalder (Media Theorist, Vienna/Zurich) - Presentation
Urban Agents - Hybrid Spaces.
Eric Kluitenberg (Media Theorist, De Balie, Amsterdam) -Presentation
- 18:00 - 19:30 **Trouble in the Archives.**
Shahid Amin (Historian, Delhi University), Shuddhabrata Sengupta and Ravikant (Sarai-CSDS) - Conversation

CONFERENCE LIVE STREAMS

Netbase, Vienna
<http://www.netbase.org>

Point Ephémère, Paris
<http://e-ngo.org>

FRIDAY, 18 NOVEMBER

- 10:30 - 12:00 **Underground Raids and Multiplex Screenings The Turbulent World of Entertainment, IP, Regulations and Real Estate in Delhi.**
Jawahar Raja (Legal Practitioner and Researcher, Sarai-CSDS, Delhi), Anand Vivek Taneja (Researcher-Practitioner, Sarai-CSDS, Delhi) - Panel
- 12:00 - 12:15 Tea break
- Technologies of Information Control**
- 12:15 - 13:45 **Surveillance, Security and Social Sorting in the City.**
David Lyon (Historian, International Surveillance Project, Queens University, Kingston, Ontario) - Keynote Speech
- 13:45 - 14:30 Lunch Break
- 14:30 - 16:00 **News You Can Use: Toward Political and Personal Ecologies of Information in Society.**
Subramanya Sastry (Software Programmer, Open Source Activist, Sarai-CSDS, Delhi), Taha Mahmood (Researcher-Practitioner, Sarai-CSDS, Delhi) - Panel
- 16:00 - 16:45 **The Scanner at the Border.**
Florian Schneider (Media Activist, 'No Borders Campaign' / 'No One is Illegal', Munich), Felix Stalder, and Shuddhabrata Sengupta - Conversation
- 16:45 - 17:00 Tea break
- 17:00 - 18:30 **The Collateral Damage of Breaking News.**
Arundhati Roy (Writer, Delhi), Lawrence Liang and Shuddhabrata Sengupta - Closing Conversation

Conference-Rapporteur: Frederic Noronha



WORLD-INFORMATION CITY CAMPAIGN > DATES: 14 - 20 NOVEMBER, 2005 > VENUE: PUBLIC SPACE - BANGALORE STREETS

Billboard Designs, Posters and Stickers in the Public Sphere:

Along the lines of the overall topic "What do stricter intellectual property laws mean for the public, for digital ecology, accessibility of knowledge, and also for the future of urban spaces?" World-Information.Org will be presenting the following projects:

"Delinquents" by Ullrike Brückner (Berlin)
Portraits of "delinquents" accused of digital crimes point at the twofold character of intellectual and cultural property. (Website: <http://www.musterfirma.org>)

"Drawings" by Elffriede (Vienna)
A series of drawings combined with text questioning the viewers about their point of view or making them conscious about questions referring to the theme. (Website: <http://www.elfriede.net>)

"Good questions" by Sebastian Luetgert (Berlin)
9 Questions central to the problematic character of digital property. (Website: <http://www.textz.com>)

"Changes of State" by Ashok Sukumaran
This project addresses programs, instructions and regulations that are embedded into conventional electrical/electronic arrangements in the city. It is an attempt to destabilize customary public interactions with the electrical grid.

"You are free" by Paula Roush (London)
This project consists of invading the everyday space of advertising, whose production and consumption cycle is dominated by a regime of intellectual property known as 'copyright' with an infiltration from the parallel production regime of copyleft. (Website: <http://www.msdm.org.uk>)

"Who owns your knowledge?" by Dominik Hruza (Vienna)
...and who benefits from the information you produce?

"United We Stand" by 0100101110101101.ORG
A band of media artists, 0100101110101101.ORG use non-conventional communication tactics to obtain the largest visibility with the minimal effort. Past works include staging a hoax involving a complete made-up artist, ripping off the Holy See, and spreading a computer virus as a work of art. (Website: <http://0100101110101101.org>)



WORLD-INFORMATION CITY EXHIBITIONS

WORLD-INFOSTRUCTURE EXHIBITION

- > Date: 14 - 19 November
- > Opening hours: 09:00 - 18:00
- > Venue: Cubbon Park Huts

World-Infostructure visualizes subject matter linked to various aspects of the information society based on research by World-Information.Org on global communication networks, the global media market, global content channels, global brain ware, global data bodies, global info rights and digital security. Numerous information displays illustrate issues associated with the development of digital media, new communication tools, and sophisticated technical instruments e.g. the increasing use of biometric devices. Special displays relate to local issues of the World-Information City Bangalore.

OPENING > Date: 14 November > Time: 17:00 - 21:00 > Venue: Cubbon Park Huts

WORLD-INFORMATION CITY EXHIBITION

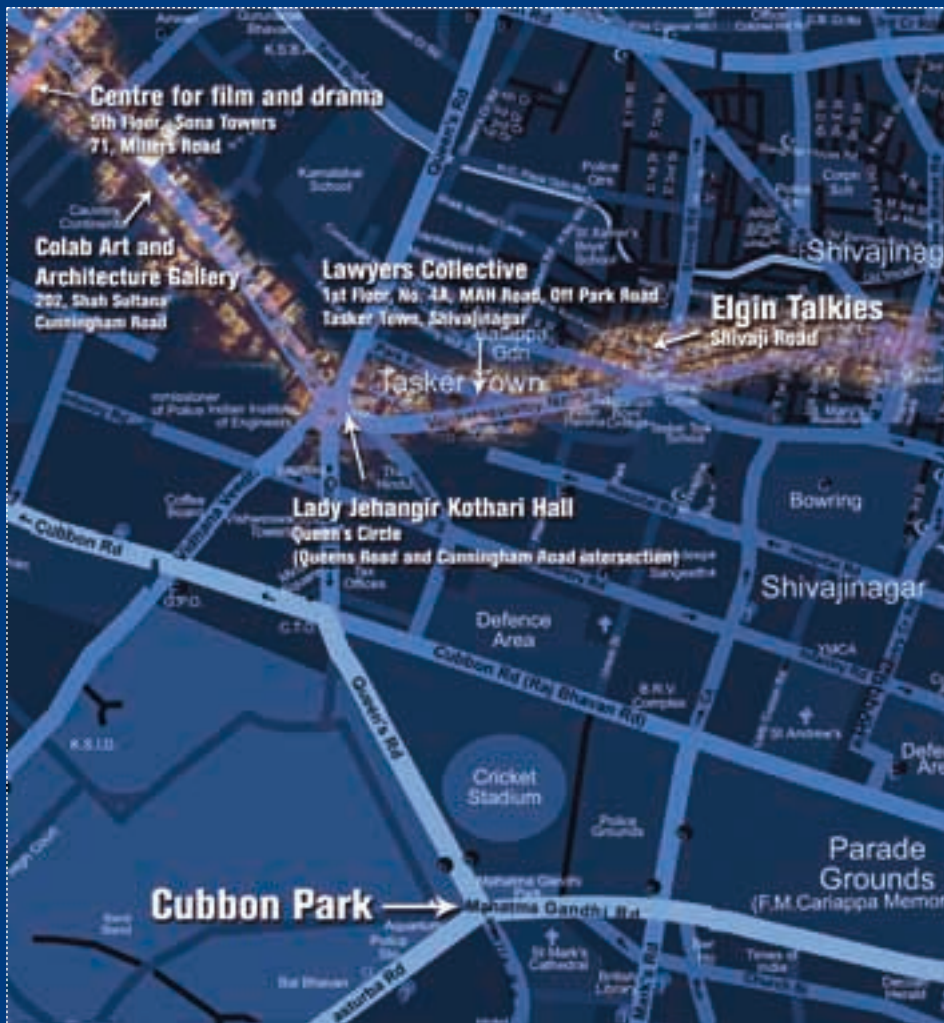
- > Date: 15 - 19 November
- > Time: 11:00 - 20:00
- > Venue: Dispersed between Russell Market in Shivajinagar through Tasker Town to Cunningham Rd.

The exhibition is a dispersed show across different sites from Russell Market in Shivajinagar through Tasker Town to Cunningham Road. It is designed in such a way as to facilitate site-specific works, but also to allow for interaction with different publics. The exhibition is also stretched between these three points in the city (Russell Market, Cunningham road, Cubbon Park) so that the experiences, sights, sounds and smells along the way are part of the show, it is thus simultaneously being informed and broadened by the media and art projects. Guided Tours through the exhibition offered on demand.

OPENING > Date: 14 November > Time: 18:00 > Venue: Centre for Film and Drama, 5th Floor, Sona Towers, 71, Millers Road

Exhibition Curators: Ayisha Abraham, Namita Malhotra, Kiran Subbaiah

VENUES AND LOCATIONS



Alternative Law Forum (ALF)
No 4 Ground Floor, 3rd Cross, Vasanthnagar, Bangalore 560052

Centre for Film and Drama
5th Floor, Sona Towers, 71 Millers Road, Bangalore

CKS
No. 4004, 100 Ft. Road, Indiranagar, Bangalore 560038

Colab Art and Architecture Gallery
202, Shah Sultana, Cunningham Road, Bangalore

Elgin Talkies
Shivaji Road 1, Bangalore

Goethe Institut Max Mueller Bhavan
No. 716, C.M.H. Road, Indiranagar 1st Stage, Bangalore 560 038

Jawahar Bal Bhavan Auditorium
Cubbon Park, Bangalore 560001

Lady Jehangir Kothari Memorial Hall
Queen's Circle (Queens Road and Cunningham Road intersection), Bangalore

Lawyer's Collective
1st Floor, No. 4A, MAH Road, Off Park Road, Tasker Town, Shivajinagar, Bangalore

Mahiti
#314/1, 2nd Floor, VijayKiran Building, 7th Cross, Domlur Layout, Bangalore 560 071

WORLD-INFORMATION CITY GUIDED TOURS

"COMMUNITY-RADIO PROJECT NUMBER 20"

- with Ram (Voices)
- > Date: 15 November
- > Time: 08:30 - 17:30
- > Location: Villages in Karnataka

This radio project started its work in Budikote (Kolar district, Karnataka) in 1999 with a needs assessment study, findings of which revealed that the community did want an information centre, which would give them timely and locally relevant information, through audio, a medium which they were comfortable with. With this end in mind began a spate of training sessions for volunteers conducted by experts from All India Radio on programming techniques. As an outcome of these training sessions volunteers began to make programmes on topics such as sericulture, organic farming techniques, child and reproductive health, insurance etc. In Partnership with VOICES (<http://www.voicesforall.org>)

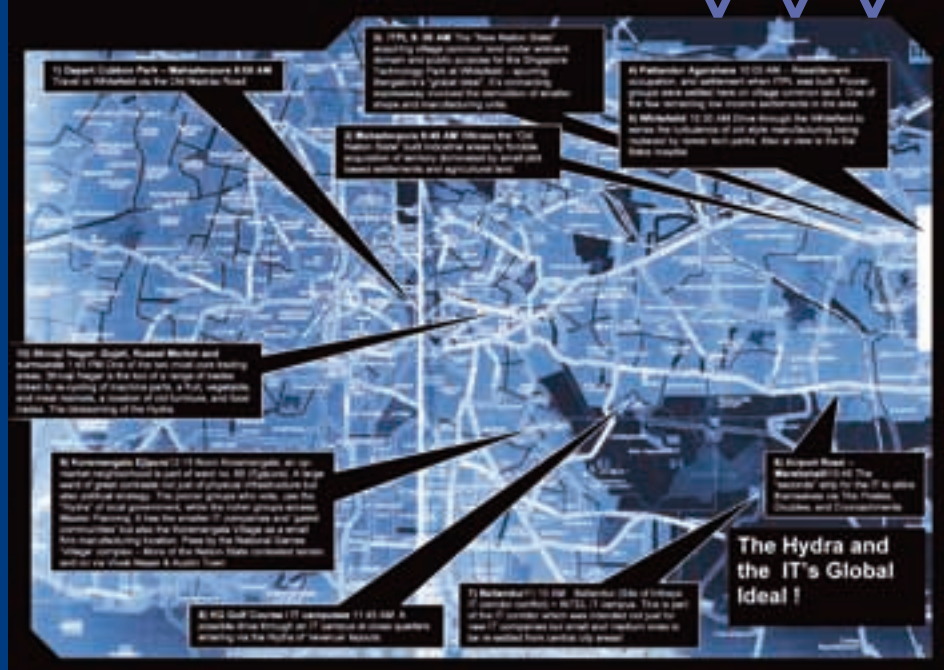
Web site:
http://www.voicesforall.org/communityradio/namma_dhwani.htm

"CITIES WITHIN CITIES: AN INTELLECTUAL TURBULENCE WITHIN A GLOBAL IDEAL"

- with Solly Benjamin
- > Date: 16 November
- > Time: 08:00 - 15:00
- (Departure: Cubbon Park - Mahadevpura)
- > Location: Bangalore

A travel through several contested landscapes in Bangalore. Some of these, in Bangalore's eastern periphery, will be huge territories serviced with high grade infrastructure dedicated to IT companies. Their adjoining areas are both residential and home based manufacturing but contrast in the very low levels of infrastructure and services. Such marginality is only surficial as deeper lie complex political contestation in the way of day to day "encroachments" as urbanization engulfs.

Attendance limited - advance registration at projects@mahiti.org



PROJECTS

- > **Centre for Film and Drama**
 - Age/Sex/Location - Raqs Media Collective
 - Now Showing the Cinematograph Act - Alternative Law Forum
 - No_des - Sarai Media Lab
 - Rhizome - Sarai Media Lab
 - Why I am so blaise - Rahima Begum
- > **Colab Art and Architecture Gallery**
 - Untitled - Sheela Gowda
- > **Lady Jehangir Kothari Memorial Hall**
 - Makrolab - Electronic Media monitoring - Marko Peljhan
 - On voice culture and automatisme - Navin Thomas
 - The square and the round god - an idea for a universal trajectory (in the manner of a proposal for 12 German pop songs - Hilary Koob-Sassen)
- > **Lawyer's Collective**
 - "wi tv" (World Info City TV) - Shaina Anand
- > **Elgin Talkies**
 - Electricity as network - Ashok Sukumaran
- > **Bal Bhavan Cubbon Park (tbc)**
 - Air Around - Rajivan Ayyappan
 - (14 - 18 November, 15:00 - 18:00)

FILM SCREENINGS

- > Date: 14 - 19 November
- > Time: 18:30
- > Venue: Centre for Film and Drama, Millers Road)
 - Thought Thieves: 14 November, 18:30)
 - "Straight 8" (Ayisha Abraham),
 - "Coding Culture" (Gautam Sonti): 15 November 18:30
 - "A Human Question" (T. Jayashree): 16 November 18:30
 - Closing Event (tba)

THEATRE PLAY "DANCING ON GLASS"

- > Date: 18 November
- > Time: 20:00
- > Venue: Centre for Film and Drama

"MELROSE PLACE-D IN BANGALORE"

Christoph Schäfer (sponsored by Max Mueller Bhavan, Bangalore)
> Venue: Colab Art and Architecture Gallery

"Revolution Non Stop" (German with English subtitles)
Christoph Schäfer (14 - 16 November, Cinema-room at Max Mueller Bhavan)

WORKSHOPS

"WRITING ON THE SURFACE OF THE CITY"

- Student Broadsheet Workshop by ALF and Sarai
- > Dates: 1/2 October
- > Time: 09:00 - 17:00
- > Venue: Mahiti

The Tactical Media Lab will focus on the interplay of form and content through the production of broadsheets. The workshop will move towards a conceptual understanding of tactical media - broadsheets in particular. A broadsheet as envisaged by us is a light, playful form that also allows engagement with serious concerns. The content for the broadsheets produced during the course of the workshop will be developed through interaction among the participants during the concept building phase. The issue that will be explored through various text and image forms will be "information society".

CONNECTED-PROGRAMME (Presentation, Waag Society)

- With Floor Van Spaendonck
- > Date: 19 November
- > Time: 15:00 - 16:00
- > Venue: Cubbon Park Auditorium
- > Website: <http://spresearch.waag.org>

The presentation will focus on the Connected! LiveArt programme wherein Waag Society worked with several artists and communities on networked (connected) art. In the programme the collaboration and communities-building aspect was emphasized and also represented part of the research.

The programme had four nested components: Projects, Artists-in-Residence, Sentient Creatures Lecture Series and Anatomic, a weekly gathering of young media artists interested in networked composition.

ECONOMY OF THE COMMONS

- With Felix Stalder
- > Date: 19 November
- > Time: 16:00 - 18:00
- > Venue: Cubbon Park Auditorium

This workshop will focus on the heterogeneity of commons-based peer production. Taking software production as a starting point, we will examine the different actors - commercial companies, NGOs, academics and students, as well as individuals - who are able to sustain a common project (the development of a particular code base) despite the diverging, and possibly even conflicting, agendas they pursue by doing so.

Participants of this workshop will gain insight into the emerging economy of the commons, helping them to better devise strategies to act within it. Participants are encouraged to contribute their own experiences as actors on open source projects as the empirical reference points for the workshop.

ELECTRONIC MEDIA MONITORING

- With Marko Peljhan
- > Date: 15 November
- > Time: 18:00 - 20:00
- > Venue: Lady Jehangir Kothari Memorial Hall

Electronic Media Monitoring captures and analyses signals of global communication streams. The basic setup of the electronic media monitoring unit provides an all purpose scanning and electronic interception environment covering various bands of the electromagnetic spectrum. Electronic Media Monitoring targets satellite based media on the widest possible geographical basis, satellite based media programming, rx operations in UHF and L-band comsat areas, satellite tracking, VHF satellite rx-tx, video KU-band reception and analysis, experimental satcom project development and other forms of electronic communication.

CLOSING EVENT > DATE: 19 NOVEMBER > TIME: 18:00 > VENUE: GOETHE INSTITUT MAX MUELLER BHAVAN

World-Information City, a week-long transnational programme of events related to issues of the information society, is wound up in this closing event that features various forms of artistic and social engagement with information, including electronic music, open source projects, and the shortfilm showcase "Thought Thieves".

ELECTRONIC MUSIC PERFORMANCE

- With Marko Peljhan
- Signal Sever
- Chris Kummerer
- TronStoner

PRESENTATION OF OPEN SOUND WORKSHOP RESULTS

OPEN SOUND WORKSHOPS

- > Date: 15 - 18 November
- > Time: 09:00 - 18:00
- > Venue: CKS

1. Full Disclosure and Digital Art - Why Programming Matters

With Chris Kummerer

This workshop will demonstrate and introduce free software programmes. Some of them were designed specially for the demands of musicians and video-artists, whereas others - though highly useful for artistic production - were not developed with the digital/media artist in mind. The aim of this workshop is to show that in many cases open-source - in contrast to its commercial counterparts - is more useful when it comes to combining the potentialities of different programmes. We will further concentrate on technical skills, working with source code, communicating special demands to programmers, and especially on the implications of licensed software on the creative use of programmes.

Participants will be able to gather experience and skills with the introduced tools in a performance during the Closing Event of World-Information City. Additionally, a project developed in the workshop will be presented in the Closing Event.

2. Interactive Digital Audio Workshop

With Ralf Traunsteiner

In the centre of interest is "Pure Data" (Pd), oriented along the lines of graphics and objects, as means for the production of interactive audiovisuals in real time. Pd is an open-source software and will be provided on different platforms (Linux, OS-X, Win). Pd is a real time signal processing system with many extensions and interfaces supporting networking and interaction, which makes it an useful tool for experimental audio, multimedia and installation artists. Participants from India will be provided with a first overview on graphical DSP-Programming with Pd. After a short introduction to the basics of digital audio-signal-processing we will concentrate on the practice-oriented intermediation of production, improvisation and live presentation of electronic music.

Participants in the workshop will gather experience and skills in the field of networked multimedia performances during a joint "Pd-Network-Jam" presented in the Closing Event of World-Information City. Additionally a project developed in the workshop will be presented during the Closing Event.

FOSS

- With Parag Goel, Dinesh, Abhas and Edward Crompton
- > Dates: 14/15 November
- > Time: 9:00 - 18:00
- > Venue: Mahiti

The workshop has four main sessions.

1. FOSS for Desktops. Parag Goel who manages the Evolution and OpenOffice projects at Novell, India, will be conducting this session.
2. FOSS for Management Information Systems. Dinesh from Servelots (<http://servelots.com/>) will conduct this session.
3. FOSS for Servers. Abhas from DeeprootLinux (<http://www.deeproot.co.in/>) will conduct this session.
4. FOSS for Open Publishing. Edward Crompton from Mahiti will conduct this session.

THOUGHT THIEVES: PRESENTATION OF WINNER PROJECTS

Thought Thieves is a short film showcase about corporate appropriation of knowledge, culture, and creativity. It is a grassroots response to the MicroSoft propaganda competition of the same name. www.thought-thieves.org

SIGNAL SEVER

Signal Sever is the sensor array and processing unit conceptualized by pact systems which maps the electromagnetic spectrum, processes, transforms it and sends it back into the ether in many different directions and forms

EU-INDIA PARTNERS



LOCAL PARTNERS



AFFILIATED PARTNERS



SUPPORTERS

