QCRI works with EML to improve Arabic speech recognition systems

Doha, Qatar, 31 July 2013:

Qatar Computing Research Institute (QCRI) and EML European Media Laboratory, Heidelberg (Germany), have combined efforts to advance very large vocabulary speech recognition technology and systems for Arabic. The result of the cooperation will be an automatic Arabic language transcription system.

The applications for automatic language transcription are wide-ranging. Video and audio content, from broadcast news programs to lectures and meetings, will become searchable, enabling knowledge sharing. It benefits persons who are hearing impaired, and may allow for the alternative communication of messages in noisy environments such as airports, or quiet areas such as libraries.

"Our collaboration with EML is an ideal union of expertise in language technology research," said Dr Ahmed Elmagarmid, Executive Director of QCRI. "The result of our cooperation opens up numerous possibilities for the future of communication enabling and information sharing. We look forward to further strengthening our relationship with EML."

"We are excited about the collaboration with QCRI for two reasons: First, it gets us into contact with a world-class research organisation, especially in the area of language-oriented technologies, and second, we can add another extremely important language to our portfolio," said Prof Andreas Reuter, CEO of EML. "I am certain that our joint activities will be to the benefit of both sides and mark the beginning of a long-term business and research relationship."

EML's research and development expertise lies with speech processing technologies. It builds automatic speech transcription systems for speech messaging, speech analytics, and media transcription solutions. EML has developed the EML Transcription Platform, a scalable speech recognition platform that is language independent.

The goal of QCRI's Arabic language technologies team is to develop technology, which helps to break down language barriers to improve access to information and the ability to communicate. The team is undertaking major research efforts to improve machine translation and speech recognition for the Arabic language and its dialects through building language models for different domains, or uses, such as meetings, broadcast news or lectures.

The collaboration between QCRI and EML will rapidly progress the development of high performance Arabic language components on the EML Transcription Platform, which would ultimately provide a rich source for Arabic language data collection to further enhance QCRI's speech recognition models.

ENDS

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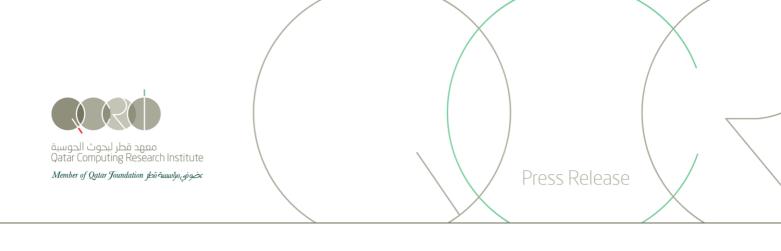**About Qatar Computing Research Institute**

Qatar Computing Research Institute (QCRI) was established in 2010 by Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, a private, non-profit organization that is supporting Qatar's transformation from a hydrocarbon-based economy to knowledge-based economy.

QCRI is a national research institute supporting Qatar Foundation's Research and Development mission to build Qatar's innovation and technology capacity by focusing on large-scale computing challenges that address national priorities for growth and development.

In doing this, QCRI conducts world-class multidisciplinary computing research that is relevant to the needs of Qatar, the wider Arab region, and the world. It performs cutting-edge research in such areas as Arabic language technologies, data analytics, distributed systems, cyber security, social computing, and computer science and engineering.

The research conducted at QCRI is aligned with the Qatar National Research Strategy and supports the strategic priorities outlined in the Qatar National Vision 2030. For more information, please visit www.qcri.qa.

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About EML European Media Laboratories

EML European Media Laboratories GmbH is a private IT enterprise established by Klaus Tschira, one of the founders of the SAP AG software company. EML is pursuing research and development in the fields of human-computer interaction and automatic speech processing, with a focus on solutions which automatically convert audio into text like automatic transcription for telephone conversations, TV and radio broadcasts, and voice texting / voice search applications. For more information, please visit www.eml-development.de.

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