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Development of a Basis for a Speech Security Best Practice Guide

Objectives

To develop background information in support of the creation of a Best Practice Guide for Architectural Speech Security.

Background

Public Works and Government Services Canada is developing a guide to speech security to be used in its office buildings across Canada. IRC will carry out background acoustical research and testing that will assist in the development of the guide. The project includes current IRC efforts to develop a better measure and criteria for speech privacy between rooms. Measurements will be done in small meeting rooms (corresponding to private offices), as well as medium-sized rooms (capacity of 20-25 occupants) and large rooms (those in which speech amplification is sometimes used). Of particular concern is the issue of "hot spots," locations in a room where overheard speech sounds are noticeably louder than the room average measurements would indicate.

Statement of Work

The research will consist of the following tasks:

- Identify typical speech and noise levels in meeting rooms
- Evaluate a proposed room-average measurement procedure
- Estimate sound transmission loss requirements for speech security
- Develop and evaluate a "hot spot" measurement technique

Expected Outcomes

- A validated procedure for room-average measurements of speech privacy
- A report statistically describing the expected ranges of speech and noise levels in meeting rooms
- A measurement procedure for evaluating the problems of "hot spots" for the speech privacy of meeting rooms

Partners

Public Works and Government Services Canada, RCMP.

Start/Completion Dates

The project began in 2003 and will be completed in 2005.

Project Manager

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For more information, see http://irc.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/ie/acoustics/speechguide_e.html

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Acoustical measurements help characterize speech privacy issues

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