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EU funding for computers that can think

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AN EU-funded research project to develop networks that can think for themselves has been won by the University of Ulster.

The three-year project has a 5m euro (£3.36m) budget and involves 14 partners from throughout Europe.

Computers are a common feature of our everyday life and are becoming more and more complex, according to Maurice Mulvenna from the University's team.

But their complexity implies more and more human intervention is needed to configure them and to make sure they work properly.

Mr Mulvenna said: "The aim of CASCADAS is to develop networks that can – to an extent – think for themselves.

"Ideally, the systems could run themselves better with little human influence. This is of great interest to business, as it offers lower-cost services in computing and networks."

The University's team – Maurice Mulvenna and Dr Chris Nugent, senior lecturers in Computer Science in the School of Computing and Mathematics, and Dr Kevin Curran, lecturer in Computer Science in the School of Computing and Intelligent Systems, will contribute their expertise in next-generation networking and artificial intelligence systems.

Mr Mulvenna said, while most networks only carry information, the team will be exploring how to make networks aware of what they are carrying and to make decisions based on that information.

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