

Students and companies have been very pleased with the program and the benefits that have resulted from their participation. For example, Stephane Gagne, a 4th year computer science student from l'universite de Sherbrooke, recently completed an eight month work term at Asahi Chemical Corporation. He was assigned to Asahi Chemical's LSI Research Laboratory in Atsugi, Japan.

The objective of Stephane's research project was to develop a proto-type speech recognition system for mobile telephone technology. His task was to program a circuit board in such a manner as to recognize voice activated commands in a noisy environment. Stephane developed a proto-type system during his work term which was far more robust than had been anticipated by his fellow researchers. Asahi Chemical was so pleased with the results of his work, that they recently demonstrated Stephane's system to a telecommunications customer which had a similar system developed by another company. After completing some comparison tests, it was found that Stephane's system was faster and more reliable. Asahi Chemical Corp has indicated that they plan to put the proto-type into production in 1994.

Stephane Gagne is continuing his research on speech recognition and is currently completing a Masters of Science Degree at the University of British Columbia.

Susan Huggett, director of the Co-op Japan Program, has travelled to Japan eleven times since the program was established, in order to introduce the program to new companies, secure work placements for students and oversee the students during their work terms. Her next trip to Japan is planned for May, 1994.

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