

# SparxSystems Central Europe

## Innovation sparks – with an x!

today. So, I guess we can claim to be a bit of a pioneer. We have over 160 partners and 750,000 users worldwide, and the top 500 companies worldwide have at least one of our licences. We maintain a very competitive pricing model because we believe that modelling or an architecture tool should be available to any user, not only the architects. We want a product with a high degree of functionality and availability in the market, with access to new features, updates, etc.”

“It stands to reason,” says Peter, “that an industry in which safety is vital will have higher priority for the modelling tools that we supply. But we are also seeing a trend in domains like healthcare and embedded devices whereby modelling is becoming increasingly indispensable. Other branches such as banking and insurance, whose challenges and issues are completely different, are also emerging fast in this respect.”

### Predict the unknown

“Some people say that software innovation is an endless cycle of inventing and reinventing wheels. Take AI in the 70s – it was a hot topic then and is a hot topic now, but in reality the difference is that 50 years ago it was a fantasy or a possibility but now it’s a reality. And while things may appear simpler, in fact the complexity is increasing. And that’s where innovation is needed because you cannot deal with the problems of today using the methodologies of yesterday. So, it’s not so much a matter of reinventing wheels but inventing wheels much faster. Nowadays we have a lot more power than we had before – in terms of memory, speed, performance, image interpretation. There’s almost no limit to what we can imagine. It’s a matter of complexity. Everything is connected. We have to consider issues in a much more complex whole. We have

to predict the unknown.” The complexity is increased by the essential difference between IT people and software people, Peter suggests. “The IT guys want security, want to avoid endangering the system. Software people are more visionary – strive for newer, better features. So just adding a bit of spice to the pot of ingredients we already have to deal with, this ‘conflict’ also has to be resolved. Myself, I come down on the visionary side.”

### Innovate to market

Peter underlines the need for innovation to take place on a large scale. “Innovation is meaningless unless it gets to market. And that’s where public funding has a role to play. In the EU’s Framework 7 tsunami recognition system project geared towards predicting a potential tsunami, I realised how fruitful the collaboration between different European partners can be. It whetted my appetite. In Austria we have the FFG, the Austrian Research Promotion Agency that provides a palette of instruments for collaborative research but you really have to make your case for software innovation since it is often regarded as a bit of an ‘invisible’ miracle potion in the mix. When the ITEA 3 COMPACT project came along, this seemed like the ideal higher-level project to become involved in. ITEA is certainly an environment to be in if you want to be innovative in the software domain. And we have learned a lot from being together with different partners, from software to hardware and from researchers to suppliers. Being able to see through the eyes of others as well as building good relationships and friendships. And getting a success story to market can act as a springboard for actual exploitation with a real product with real impact. We look forward to that!”

### More information

<https://www.sparxsystems.eu/>

## Enterprise Architect

A scalable, easily deployed, multi-user environment, Enterprise Architect integrates team members from all sections and all phases of a product’s (or system’s) development and maintenance lifecycle, providing significant benefits from built-in collaboration and inherent information sharing. A single repository for business analysts, software architects, developers, project managers, testers, roll-out and support staff. A ‘unified’ view of a complex system having many viewpoints and many possible subsystems. Shared models can be accessed easily and securely by remote team members with Enterprise Architect’s ProCloud Server.

