Using the Earth Sciences Videoconferencing Unit in GESB 361

The TelePresence unit is a standard videoconferencing unit using H.323 protocol, so should be able to communicate through an internet (IP) connection to any other standard H.323 videoconferencing unit. The device is particular in the use of the image-splitting glass reflector, which allows you to look at the other party at eye level.

The device is available for use without reservation. It is not hard to use, although it is recommended that you try it in advance of first use, to familiarize yourself with its functions.

1. Switching On
Normally, the codec (the Sony computer) is in standby mode, and the screen and the audio amplifier are switched off. If the power cord has been unplugged, it may be necessary to switch on the codec. There is also a master power switch that glows red, it can remain on all the time – but switch it on if it is off.

To start, switch on the TV and the audio, the switches are on the back of the unit.
If the codec is in its standby mode (which would be the most common state), you need only turn it on using the power (i/o) button on the gray (Sony) remote. It takes about 30 seconds to start up, so don’t panic if you don’t see anything on the screen for a while (make sure the screen is turned on). The camera goes through a startup check in which it swings through the range of its servos and then centralizes on the screen. Place the microphone (white wire) in the center of the table close to the participants.

2. Connecting
You can call another party, or the other party can call you. If they are calling you, tell them the name and IP address of our unit – it is es-vc1.stanford.edu, IP address 171.64.172.11. If someone calls you, the unit will answer automatically, you don’t need to do anything. If you are calling the other party, click Return on the remote, choose Connect on the screen, and type the IP address of the party you are calling. When you are finished the call, press Disconnect on the remote, put the codec in standby by pressing the power (i/o) button on the remote (twice), then switch off the TV and the audio.