http://www.e-rotterdam.org
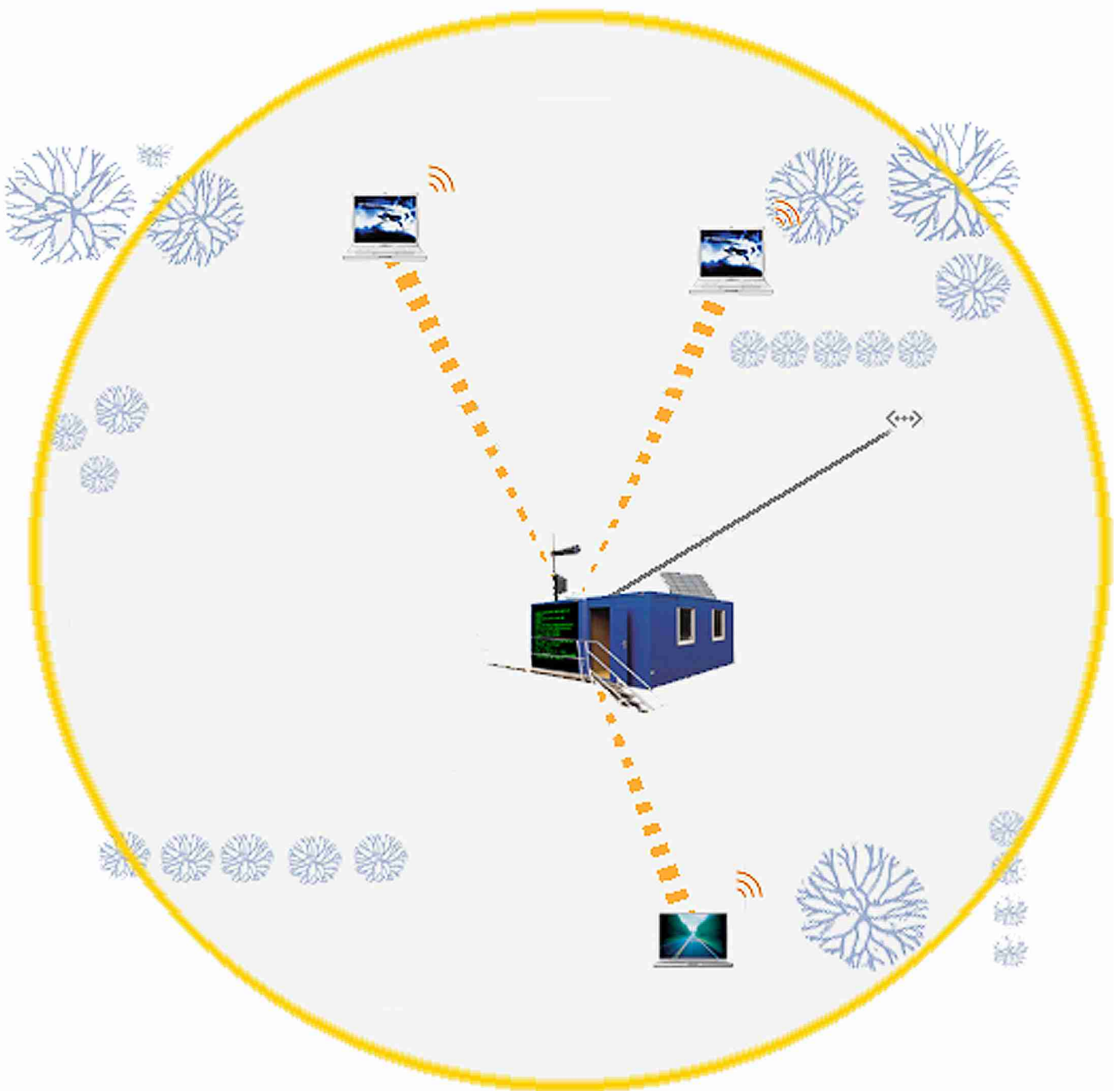
virtual city/physical place

(individual-citizen republic project)

A Daniel G. Andújar project sponsored by Technologies To The People

⚡P® *Technologies To The People*

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Technologies to the People® is a non-profit-making
organization that provides the destitute with access
to the new technologies and thus facilitates their entry
to the information society.

e-rotterdam.org

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Gemeente Rotterdam
http://www.e-rotterdam.org

An Open Source Content Management System that brings together content and users effectively. With that system everybody can manage the site easily from any online computer

Stad aan de Maas, Wereldhaven nummer 1.

We are face to face with a new utopia with freedom and global access to information and knowledge yet we see it gradually fade away as we analyse and explore in detail how events have occurred. Obviously, we are witnessing processes of structural change, fundamental transformations that are shaping, once and for all, the action of society, human experience, and influencing, as could be expected, the creative process of artists and groups.

The praxis of art must set up social interaction mechanisms helping to ensure its long-term impact and allowing it to convey its discourse out with the limits of an art-loving public and the institutions of art itself. As a tool capable of bringing together information in its entirety and transmitting existing communications, the Internet obviously plays a dominant role among the ways of accessing knowledge, hence the importance and attention it has generated.

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Artistic practice must develop on the Net a working and organizational system quite unlike the "institutional" and corporate model, traditionally more hierarchy-oriented, far beyond mere experimentation or the simple re-adaptation of formats. The Net allows the concentration of knowledge and information to be broken down, contributes new dimensions of globality and virtuality, is an instantaneous medium at a relatively low cost that, albeit only potentially, fans our hopes for the democratisation of culture. There can be no doubt that it is the medium and the tool that many artistic and cultural projects in general but also political and social projects, will find ideal for their development.

It is a good idea to develop projects that contribute to the active growth of these infrastructures. Platforms based on the concept of space-sharing to allow independent development and then share the work effected; discovering ways of working and collaborating with others and social groups; using its own infrastructure with hallmarks that are closer to the reality of their physical setting.

I would like to create a true independent platform for discussion, experimentation and dissemination of certain local information-activities. http://www.e-rotterdam.org To do so we have to use appropriate technologies, such as Open Source or Free Software, as a fundamental part of the development of our proposals. This will allow us to achieve a greater degree of independence and will contribute to disseminating platforms, which are free from the whims of the logic of big business or the administration.
The concrete platform will be an Open Source Content Management System that brings together content and users effectively. With that system everybody can manage the site easily from any online computer.

Simultaneously we will put hands-on to participate in a practical workshop lasting one week in which you can learn to manage with the platform, such as how to deal with your own user account, to send information to the platform, to comment others articles. But that is not all: it is the chance to share experiences and help to develop an independent democratic platform.
We are working in a very experimental social level. So we should think in a metaphorical

Can we simulate a better level of democracy with technology?
What should be happened if everybody should have access to the same level of knowledge, information, access, infrastructure...?
Promoting, using and developing the resources provided by the community will give the community, as a group, a greater degree of independence and self-control, and it will help the rest of society to view collectively obtained resources.
We do not want to replace the municipal authority nor the local political administration, but we can create, as a social experiment (an artistic project), the context of discussion of these infrastructures.

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This tool must be like a big QUESTION around technology capacities in a social context. When we are talking about borders we are normally thinking about physical or far way borders, but a local community reproduce the same role of the main society with some specifications:
Economy, profession, education, social role, political affiliation, genre, language, sexuality, physical aspect... problems of solitude, isolation, distance, uprooting, vulnerability...

Can we cross these borders with the capacities that the technology gives us?

What mean Community?, Citizen?, Individual?, Collective? Rights?, Freedom?, Living Together?, Local specific?, National?, Supra-national?, Insulation?, Connectivity?, Association?, Socialism?, Capitalism?, Fiction?, Democracy?, Virtuality? , Municipal Government?, Mayor Authority?... We must put that questions on the table.

Can we build a electronic city?

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During the days of the festival, the platform will be physical. An ephemeral platform that will work like metaphor of the auto-organization and the auto-government. It serves also to set-up the platform, as well as to introduce the datas, to teach to use it and to generate contents. Technologies to the People have put a simultaneous hands-on participation in a workshop in which to share experiences and teach how to deal with the platform.

The workshop will be for "everybody". The idea is to reproduce in the platform the context of local participation. Each citizen can has his own identity in the web with his name, key of user, password, and its photo or decide to be anonymous. The platform is the centre that distributes information and produce knowledge that distributes wirelessly into their virtual border.
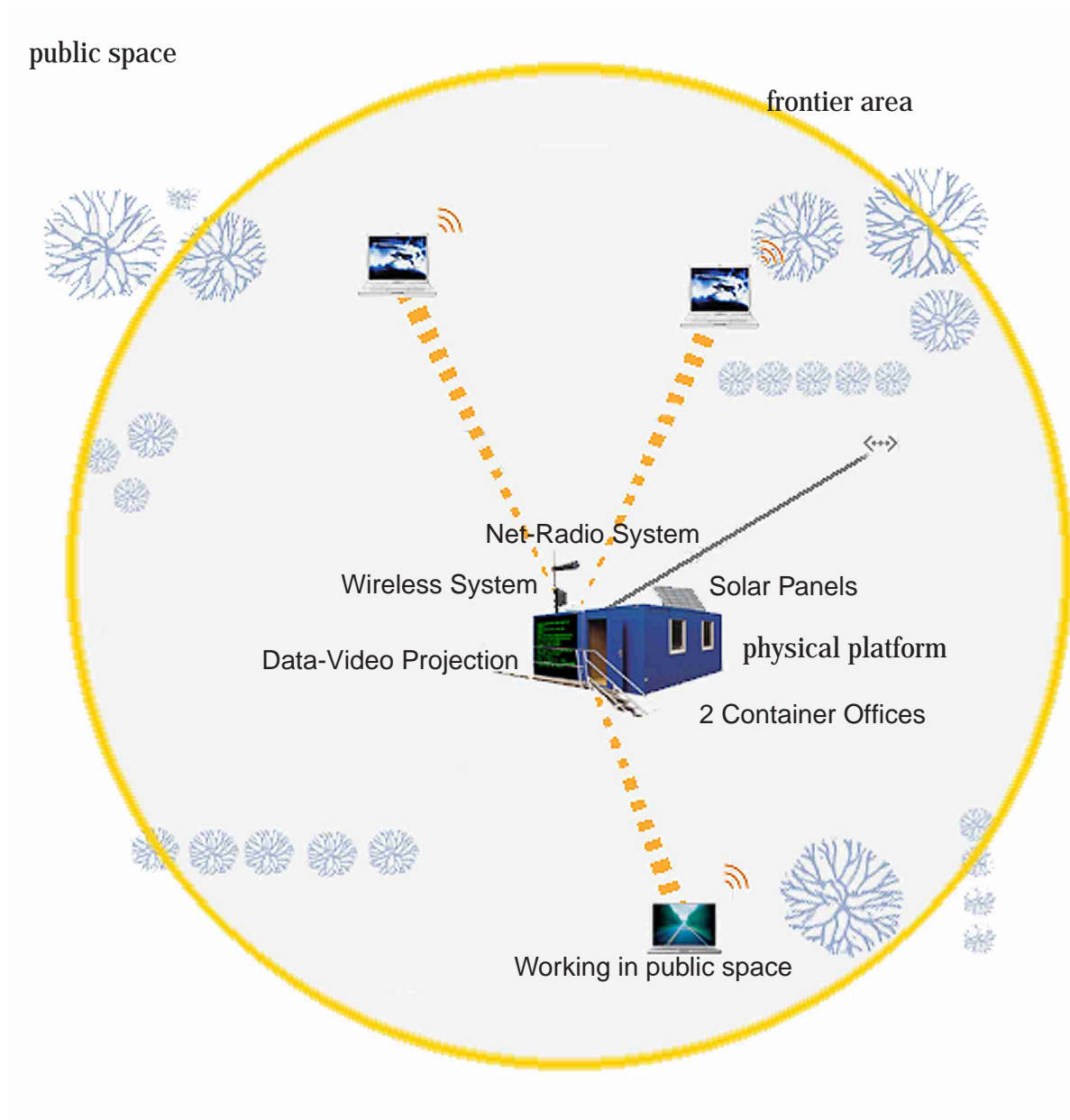

Individual-Citizen Republic
Technologies To The People

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The technical aspects of the platform allow working with independent form within the virtual space defined by the coverage of the wireless and the net system.
The radius coverage is our BORDER.

public space

frontier area

Net-Radio System

Wireless System

Solar Panels

Data-Video Projection

physical platform

2 Container Offices

Working in public space

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Production needs
A Internet hosting server,
Some assistance for the workshop (English-Dutchspeaker to work with local aspects).

-2 Container Offices
-Wireless System (homemade system that allows to share the ADSL in an open space)
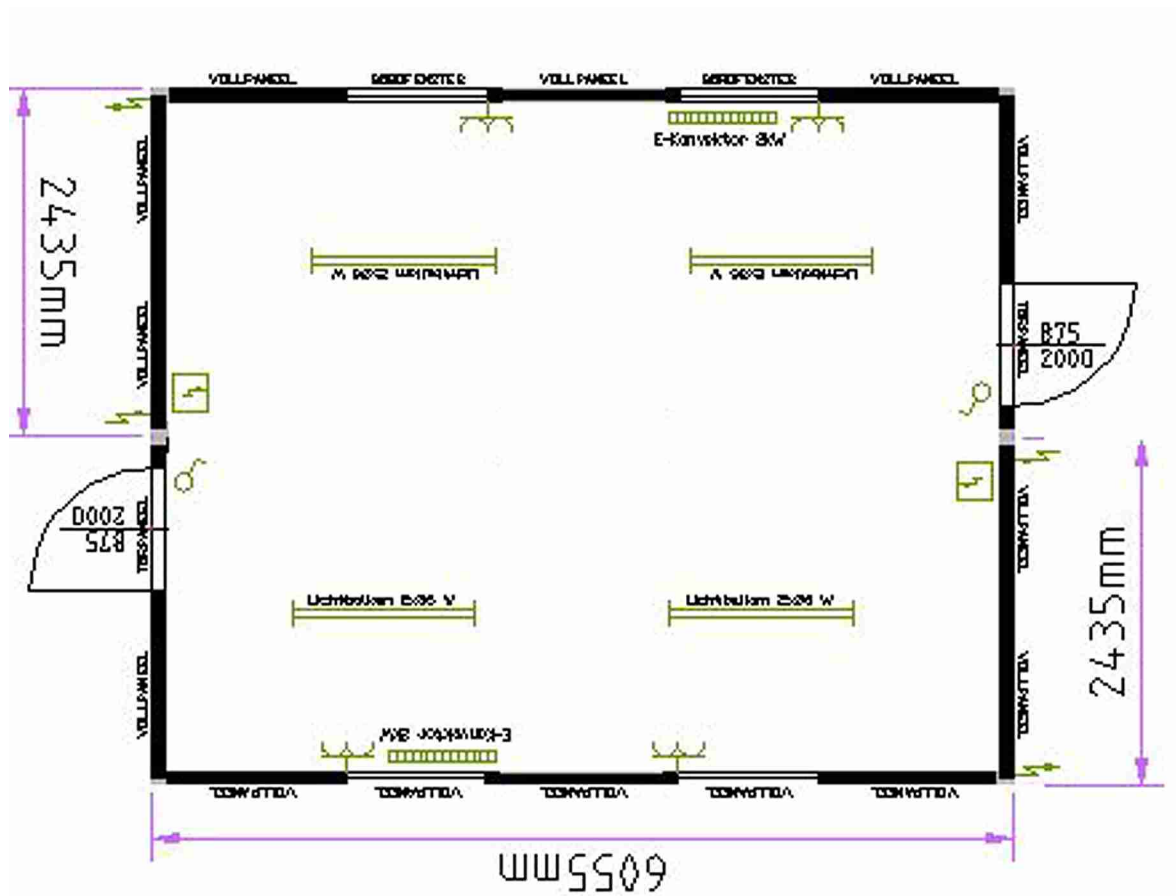-Net-Radio System
-Solar Panels
-Hacklab
-Computer System
-2 Screens
-2 Video Projectors

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Production details
Pringles Wireless System (homemade system that allows to share the ADSL in an open space)
With Pringles Wireless System on our platform with your PC or laptop, wirelessly you can:
Surf on the Internet in a public space. Read and send your emails. Use a shared platform like
e-rotterdam.org. Share files...