

Where Are They Now?

Constraint_Works Inc.

During the 2002 TELUS New Ventures BC competition, Constraint_Works landed a prestigious \$60,000 prototyping contract with the US National Football League to develop scheduling software for organizing their complex, 32-team broadcast season.

Competing with 40 top companies and research labs around the world, Constraint_Works finished up as one of the last two contenders. Says Constraint_Works founder Bill Havens, “We succeeded in solving the scheduling problem using our ReSolver technology, for which we are very proud.”

Constraint_Works was a second-place winner in the TELUS New Ventures BC competition.

A spin-off company from Simon Fraser University, Constraint_Works develops new mathematical algorithms to solve dynamic, or real-time, scheduling problems such as those encountered by courier companies whose truck routes must constantly change to keep up with new deliveries and pick-ups. While Constraint_Works eventually lost the NFL contract to a more established company, Havens notes that the other company doesn't do dynamic scheduling. “Our technology is different, it's newer and we see our advantage in dynamic problems like real-time scheduling.”

Havens, an SFU computing science professor, plans to grow his company ‘organically’, one customer at a time and is also developing strategic partnerships with independent software vendors who need his dynamic scheduling component to fulfill a corporate project. “Software vendors don't generally have the required mathematical expertise,” says Havens.