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**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of Ben Goertzel [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 19, 2013 4:15 PM  
**To:** Jeffrey Epstein  
**Subject:** Re: video chat?

Hi,

Great! It will be good to chat; it's been a while ;) ...

If you're on the US East Coast, then given the time zone difference, some convenient times would be: 7PM US Eastern time (= 8AM Hong Kong time) or 10AM US Eastern time (=11PM Hong Kong time).... I can do those times basically any day, just let me know what day/time works for you.... (Or feel free to posit some other time, those are just suggestions...)

I'm [REDACTED] on Skype, or [REDACTED] on Google Hangouts...  
or I can call a US number easily, of course...

Yours,  
Ben

On Tue, Nov 19, 2013 at 6:18 PM, Jeffrey Epstein <jeevacation@gmail.com> wr=te:

> great idea

>

>

> On Tue, Nov 19, 2013 at 5:35 AM, Ben Goertzel [REDACTED] wrote:

>>

>> Hi,

>>

>> One more small thing..

>>

>> Joscha mentioned he talked to you via video-chat, by the way....

>>

>> We've never tried that, but now that I'm in Hong Kong most of the

>> time, it might be a good idea, since a F2F meeting may be difficult

>> to coordinate...

>>

>> Let me know if you have time -- certainly it's "higher bandwidth" in

>> some ways than email.

>>

>> Yours

>> Ben

>>

>>

>>

>> On Sun, Nov 17, 2013 at 2:12 PM, Ben Goertzel [REDACTED] wrote:

>>> Hi Jeffrey,

>>>

>>> [Sorry for the semi-long email but there's lots to cover; I know  
>>> you're busy and your time is appreciated... ;) ... ]  
>>>  
>>> Firstly -- Wow, it seems your publicity folks have been quite  
>>> impactful lately! Since your team has issued a number of press  
>>> releases mentioning me lately, I keep getting emails from people  
>>> congratulating me on my new AGI funding windfall from the Jeffrey  
>>> Epstein IV Foundation. (Though of course, I have to disappoint them  
>>> by telling them that, while you've been consistently and  
>>> wonderfully helpful to my work over the years, there has been no  
>>> big-time Epstein/OpenCog AGI funding event... yet ...)  
>>>  
>>> Anyway -- on to immediate practical matters -- the time of year has  
>>> come for me to email you and inquire about the possibility of  
>>> ongoing research funding...  
>>>  
>>> You may recall that my Hong Kong government research grant requires  
>>> private donations amounting to 10% of the \$\$, and then the  
>>> government will put up 90%.  
>>>  
>>> Last year you donated \$20K toward this grant, which was very much  
>>> appreciated.  
>>>  
>>> This year I have gotten approval for an increase in the Hong Kong  
>>> government funding (technically: a separate grant running 2014-2015,  
>>> overlapping with the current grant which runs 2013-2014). With the  
>>> increased funding, next year we will have 10 programmers working on  
>>> OpenCog here in Hong Kong, which will be quite exciting.  
>>>  
>>> The 10% payment for the two grants will be \$45K in total, due by  
>>> the end of 2013. If you could help with this, as you did last  
>>> year, that would be fantastic. (Elsewise, to be quite frank, I  
>>> have no ready way to come up with that amount of money except to  
>>> liquidate my minimal pension fund from my university days ;p )  
>>>  
>>> The new grant (2014-2015) is specifically for natural language  
>>> dialogue, whereas the previous one (2013-2014) was aimed at robotics,  
>>> and the earlier one (2012-2013) was aimed at game characters. As you  
>>> see, what they like to fund is something that sounds "applied",  
>>> rather than core AGI research. However, the bulk of the \$\$ has  
>>> always actually been spent on core AGI research. [The funding  
>>> agency is ultimately fine with whatever you do, so long as it's in  
>>> the vicinity of the proposal and you publish some papers.]  
>>>  
>>> This brief wiki page  
>>>  
>>> [http://wiki.opencog.org/w/OpenCog\\_HK\\_2014\\_High\\_Level\\_Goals](http://wiki.opencog.org/w/OpenCog_HK_2014_High_Level_Goals)  
>>>  
>>> summarizes what we've done in the last year (2013 so far), and what  
>>> is planned for this fall and the next year. I'm happy to elaborate more  
>>> details for you if you wish. It's exciting stuff... with this  
>>> increased grant funding, we should be able to finally make an

>>> honest effort at implementing a non-trivial subset of OpenCog...  
>>> [I can also send you the full grant proposals if you wish, though  
>>> they are somewhat a mix of science-ese and proposal-ese as is usual  
>>> in such cases...]  
>>>  
>>> Ah, and btw -- my in-depth book on how to build an AGI  
>>> ("Engineering General Intelligence") is being published early next  
>>> year, in two volumes, FINALLY ...  
>>>  
>>>  
>>> [http://www.amazon.com/Engineering-General-Intelligence-Part-Cogniti-ve/p/9462390266/ref=sr\\_1\\_3?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1384664281&sr=1-3&keywords=goertzel+engineering+general+intelligence](http://www.amazon.com/Engineering-General-Intelligence-Part-Cogniti-ve/p/9462390266/ref=sr_1_3?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1384664281&sr=1-3&keywords=goertzel+engineering+general+intelligence)  
>>>  
>>>  
>>> [http://www.amazon.com/Engineering-General-Intelligence-Part-Architecture/dp/9462390290/ref=sr\\_1\\_4?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1384664311&sr=1-4&keywords=goertzel+engineering+general+intelligence](http://www.amazon.com/Engineering-General-Intelligence-Part-Architecture/dp/9462390290/ref=sr_1_4?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1384664311&sr=1-4&keywords=goertzel+engineering+general+intelligence)  
>>>  
>>> I will send you copies when they are available... ;)  
>>>  
>>> Finally -- while your help with the next 10% payment will be VERY  
>>> much appreciated, it remains the case that our progress toward AGI  
>>> would be accelerated dramatically with additional funding from a  
>>> visionary such as yourself. The HK government money is very  
>>> welcome yet has some strings attached -- basically you can only use  
>>> it to hire "postdoc" / "research associate" type people, not  
>>> experienced professionals. I can't use the money to pay myself,  
>>> nor to pay someone with a decade or two of professional AI  
>>> programming experience, nor experienced AI researchers for that matter.  
>>>  
>>> If you were able to provide a higher level of help, this could of  
>>> course dramatically accelerate our progress toward AGI.  
>>>  
>>> In this spirit, I have been thinking of putting together a proposal  
>>> for a cross-university collaboration on AGI, including adding a few  
>>> senior staff to my own team at Hong Kong Poly U, some funds for  
>>> Joscha and a couple assistants to work on the  
>>> motivation/action-selection aspects, and for Itamar to hire some assistants to work on perception  
>>> and action at UTK. If you would be interested to consider such a  
>>> proposal, in the vicinity of say US\$750K/year for 3 years (with  
>>> clearly defined interim milestones along the way), let me know.  
>>> This level of course is not "AGI Brooklyn Project" scale, but it  
>>> would still provide a very major boost to our AGI efforts.  
>>>  
>>> Next, a slightly more personal update.... Right now I am spending  
>>> half my time on OpenCog and half on Aidyia, our AI-based proto-hedge fund.  
>>> The hedge fund project is going OK; we've been doing lots of  
>>> research and software development on machine learning applied to financial  
>>> markets, and expect to start trading perhaps Q2 of next year. I have  
>>> some equity in Aidyia, so if it succeeds, I'll get a bunch of money  
>>> at some point in N years. However, I am very bored with financial

>>> market analysis and eager to spend more of my time on AGI,  
>>> especially with this additional OpenCog grant money. During 2014 I  
>>> plan to segue into spending more and more time on OpenCog and the  
>>> quest for AGI, which is what I really love, while continuing to  
>>> help Aidyia with high-level AI advisement...  
>>>  
>>> Assuming the fund project goes OK and we launch the fund in  
>>> mid-2014 as expected, I will contact you about possible interest in  
>>> putting AUM into the fund.  
>>>  
>>> A 48 minute documentary was made about my and Hugo de Garis's  
>>> AI/robotics work in Xiamen in 2009, by the way. It's not terribly  
>>> meaty science-wise, but, toward the end are some \*great\*  
>>> conversations with a robot chat system that Ruiting (now my wife) and I built...  
>>> See <http://singularityorbust.com> if you have an hour to spare watching  
>>> it. Beware it contains a lot of me mumbling about philosophy -- but  
>>> still, although it's somewhat avant-garde in style, it did win a  
>>> Best Documentary award at a film festival...  
>>>  
>>> Thanks for reading all the way to the bottom of this long email,  
>>> and for your ongoing, very much valued assistance!  
>>>  
>>> By the way, when do you plan to visit Hong Kong? ;)  
>>>  
>>> Yours,  
>>> Ben  
>>>  
>>> P.S.  
>>> Ah -- also -- I will be on the US East Coast briefly over the  
>>> holidays to visit my family... I'm guessing you're traveling during  
>>> the holidays too, but if you happen to have a free couple hours on  
>>> Dec 30 for example, I could journey from Delaware (where my mom  
>>> lives) up to New York or down to Florida to confer with you...  
>>>  
>>> Or of course, I am happy to talk on the phone at any time! ... the  
>>> time zones are a bit tricky, but for you I'll get up in the middle  
>>> of the night or whatever...  
>>>  
>>> --  
>>> Ben Goertzel, PhD  
>>> <http://goertzel.org>  
>>>  
>>> "My humanity is a constant self-overcoming" -- Friedrich Nietzsche  
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> --  
> \*\*\*\*\*  
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Ben Goertzel, PhD  
<http://goertzel.org>

"My humanity is a constant self-overcoming" -- Friedrich Nietzsche <?xml version=.0" encoding=TF-8"?> <!DOCTYPE plist  
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    </array>  
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</dict>  
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