

MT system from Israel

The latest machine translation system to make an impact on the market is the Tovna system, developed in Israel, the first major MT development in that country. Already Tovna has scored its two successes, being installed as a trial system by the World Bank in Washington, and being chosen by Canadian translation bureau, Lexitech, to replace its existing Logos equipment.

Tovna was originally designed in Israel by Dr Daniel Cohen, who started it as an academic project in the 1970s, and received commercial backing in 1985. A company was founded in Israel to market the system, and the first language pair, English to French, was first shown at the London Translating and the Computer conference in November 1988.

An English to Russian system is being installed in Eastern Europe. The developers, who are also looking for outside investment, are looking to realise the reverse language pairs at the end of this year, and to introduce further language pairs.