Marcial Echenique is professor of Land Use and Transport Studies and Head of Architecture at the University of Cambridge. He is accredited, in particular, with early work on the integration of land use and transport planning, and for both theoretical and practical advances in the development and application of computer models. He has also acted as a consultant to numerous government and local authorities and has directed a number of major planning studies financed by international institutions such as The World Bank and The United Nations. Recently, he directed the influential study of Cambridge Futures (RTPI award for planning innovation), co-directed the joint urban design studio of the Cambridge-MIT Institute and is the principal investigator for the EPSRC research on sustainable urban environment (SOLUTIONS).

The Martin Centre is the research arm of the Department of Architecture at the University of Cambridge, where all contracted research takes place. Currently, there are research projects with a combined gross value of more than £12 millions, involving a couple of dozen researchers and academic staff as well as 40 PhD students associated with research. The ReVISIONS research is conducted by a consortium of Universities including Leeds, Exeter, Surrey, Newcastle and Wales. In addition, there are a number of end users of the research from central, regional and local authorities as well as private companies. The universities of Tsinghua, Sao Paulo and of Southern California are also participating in the research.

This is an EPSRC 4-year research project into regional sustainability for the Greater South East of England, which gravitates around London and includes an equivalent programme for the Greater Beijing region as well as the Sao Paulo region in Brazil and Los Angeles region in the US. The method involves the implementation of a Land Use/Transport interaction model for each region and the testing and assessment of the same set of policies in each region. The expected outcome should be guidance for the most sustainable policies in terms of economic, social and environmental goals, taking into consideration the different stages of development of each region. Particular attention will be paid to the possibilities of micro generation of energy by renewable means as well as the recycling of resources.