

# EARTO INNOVATION AWARDS 2017

Attributed to

## TECNALIA for the AURA Technology Fraunhofer for the CLEAN TAN Technology

Brussels, 11 October 2017

The EARTO Innovation Awards 2017 were given tonight to EARTO members **Fraunhofer** and **Tecnalia** during a ceremony held at the *BELVue Museum* in Brussels. Fraunhofer received the award in the Impact Expected category for the development of the **CLEANTAN technology**, an innovative production process using compressed CO<sub>2</sub> to tan leather without using chromium as tanning agent and with no waste water. Tecnalia received the award in the Impact Delivered category for the development of the **AURA technology**, an innovative system which uses Big Data to predict the expected behaviour and detect future failure of a company's key assets, such as wind turbines or train wheels.



**AURA TECHNOLOGY**  
Industry Is Getting Smarter!



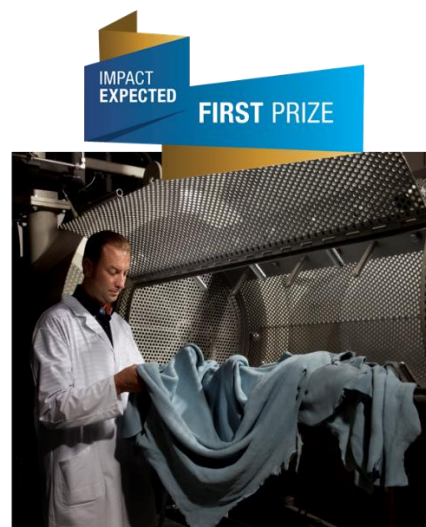
**Making sense of big data to plan predictive maintenance strategies**



AURA optimises the maintenance of over **65 million** railway wheels, improving their lifetime of up to **30%**.



AURA manages over **10,000** wind turbines, reducing downtime by **74%** and leading to savings of **€2,000/MW**.



**CLEANTAN TECHNOLOGY**  
Leather Tanning Gets Cleaner!



**Using compressed CO<sub>2</sub> to tan leather without waste water**



CLEANTAN enables to save **7 billion** litre/year of chromium contaminated water compared to conventional tanning process.



CLEANTAN reduces process time by a factor of **5**. By end 2018, **5 to 10** plants will be brought to market.

Created in 2009, the EARTO Innovation Awards highlight the various areas of RTOs' activities and illustrate RTOs' concrete contributions to innovation with high societal impact through the two categories: "Impact Delivered" and "Impact Expected". The Awards' independent jury chose the best innovations of the year. Our Jury Members this year were:



**Peter Dröll**  
Director, DG  
Research &  
Innovation,  
European  
Commission

**Simon Edmonds**  
Director  
Catapult  
Programme,  
Innovate UK

**Christian Ehler**  
MEP,  
European  
Parliament

**Carlos Härtel**  
CTO & Chief  
Innovation  
Officer, GE  
Europe

**Jana Kolar**  
Member of  
the  
Governing  
Board, EIT

**Francisco Marín**  
General  
Director,  
CDTI

**Unni Steinsmo**  
Corporate  
Advisor,  
SINTEF

On the same day, EARTO has published the 2017 edition of its "Innovation Awards" brochure, a collection of thirty-two innovations featuring EARTO members, which gives a flavour of the wide range of RTOs' work. Such innovations demonstrate RTOs' capacity to support Europe's innovation performance and their focus on solving today's challenges and delivering impact. The brochure includes articles on all RTOs that took part in this year's competition with a special focus on the 6 finalists which are, in addition to the two winners Tecnia and Fraunhofer:



Impact  
Delivered!

**EARTAG - Monitor your cows' health and location from your app**, an innovative software linked to sensors able not only to capture the position of cows in the fields, but also to monitor their health status from a simple app.



Impact  
Delivered!

**Peijnenburg-Zero - Make delicious cakes with no added sugar for healthier snacks**, an innovative solution which uses the molecular properties of different sugar ingredients to predict the essential quality features of bakery products.



Impact  
Expected!

**UnifyUTMS - Manage air traffic in the drone age**, the world's first complete solution to connect official entities with operators to integrate drones into the air space safely and securely.



Impact  
Expected!

**GreenBTX - Make the green chemicals of the future**, a highly selective and competitive process to manufacture green industrially-viable chemicals out of wood and non-food waste, alleviating the dependency on fossil oil-based raw materials in industrial processes.

Full EARTO Innovation Awards 2017 brochure available [here](#).

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**EARTO Innovation Awards** are given since 2009 to illustrate RTOs key contribution to innovation. Two categories have been created: Impact Delivered and Impact Expected. The Impact Delivered Award is given to an innovation already in the market and which has proven its impact on Europe's economy and/or society, while the Impact Expected category rewards an innovation which is not yet on the market but has great potential.

**RTOs - Research and Technology Organisations:** From the lab to your everyday life. RTOs innovate to improve your health and well-being, your safety and security, your mobility and connectivity. RTOs' technologies cover all scientific fields. Their work ranges from basic research to new products and services development. RTOs are non-profit organisations with public missions to support society. To do so, they closely cooperate with industries, large and small, as well as a wide array of public actors.

**EARTO - European Association of Research and Technology Organisations:** Founded in 1999, EARTO promotes RTOs and represents their interests in Europe. The EARTO network counts over 350 RTOs in more than 20 countries. EARTO members represent 150.000 highly-skilled researchers and engineers managing a wide range of innovation infrastructures.

**Tecnia** is a Spanish RTO aiming to transform knowledge into GDP by creating business opportunities for companies through multidisciplinary and applied research, improving people's quality of life. Experts of more than 27 nationalities, in 22 headquarters all over the world, visualise, identify and develop comprehensive technological solutions with creativity and imagination for more than 4,000 clients.

**Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft** is a leading research and technology organisation. Its activities are conducted by 66 Fraunhofer Institutes and research units located throughout Europe. Fraunhofer employs a staff of around 24,000 who work with annual research budget totalling 2 billion euros, 70% being generated through collaborative research with industry and publicly funded research projects.