EARTO Presents First EARTO Innovation Prize to TNO, CEA and ECN Research Teams

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Tonight, EARTO has presented the first EARTO Innovation Prize to TNO (the Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research) and its partners, the Kennemerland Regional Public Health Laboratory and Vitens, a Dutch drinking water supplier, for the development of an innovative "Legionella Chip".

The EARTO Innovation Prize was awarded for the first time in 2009, at an award ceremony held in the Museum of Musical Instruments in Brussels. The Prize rewards recent innovations, developed totally or in part by RTOs, which have a social and/or economic relevance, an innovative originality, a demonstrated practical application and demonstrated viability. The following experts acted as members of the jury:

- Leopold Demiddeleer, President of EIRMA, Director of Future Businesses, Solvay, Belgium
- Jan A. Dekker, President of KIVI NIRIA (Royal Dutch Society of Engineers), President of Syntens (Dutch Network of Regional Innovation Centres), former President of EARTO, former President of TNO, non-executive director of several companies large and small, The Netherlands
- Richard Hudson, publisher of Science|Business (a respected European news service on innovation), London and Brussels
- Allyson Reed, Director of Strategy and Communications, Technology Strategy Board, United Kingdom (and a former executive in the new business area of QinetiQ)
- Satu Hassi, Member of the European Parliament

The new Legionella-chip will allow companies and public authorities to determine in only four hours whether a water sample contains a pathogenic strain of Legionella, compared to two weeks with a traditional method of analysis. This innovation represents an undisputed breakthrough in the fight against Legionella. The spinoff company LEGYON@ BV was jointly created by TNO and Vitens to market the Legionella-chip.

Two other innovations were highly commended by the Jury: MOTIONPOD, developed by a team from CEA (the French Atomic Energy Commission) and a Back-Contact Solar Module Assembly Line by a research team from ECN (the Energy Research Center of the Netherlands). MOTIONPOD is a patented motion sensing solution for accurate human body orientation measurement with applications in various fields such as physical therapy, rehabilitation or medical robotics. The Back-Contact Solar Module Assembly Line is capable of assembling industrial-size solar modules and has been designed to support

all possible varieties of rear-contact cells. It will lead to drastic cost reduction of solar modules and of solar electricity generation.

Erkki Leppävuori, President of EARTO, said: "I am delighted to present the first EARTO Innovation Prize to this excellent project, and to recognize the value of two other outstanding innovations. These projects truly reflect the innovative potential of RTOs".

Dirk-Meints Polter, President of the Jury and former Vice-President of Fraunhofer Gesellschaft, Germany, said: "The EARTO Innovation Prize was created to reward outstanding innovations from EARTO members and to highlight the important role of RTOs in a modern European innovative economy. The quality of the first selected projects demonstrates that RTOs are essential actors in the knowledge economy of the 21st century".

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Notes to Editors

RTOs (Research and Technology Organisations)

RTOs have a distinct mission and a key role in the knowledge and innovation economy: they produce, integrate and transfer science and technology to help resolve the grand challenges confronting society and to exploit opportunities for new wealth creation and, hence, improved standards of living. RTOs accomplish their mission through a portfolio of activities and services:

- **monitoring social and economic developments** in order to anticipate and identify future science and technology needs;
- **strategic research** to develop new knowledge and technologies for future application;
- **collaborative and contract research** to develop technologies for specific applications and clients, and
- **knowledge transfer** to ensure the widest possible diffusion and adoption of technologies

EARTO

EARTO is the **European trade association** of the research and technology organisations (**RTOs**), a non-profit organisation founded in 1999. **EARTO groups over 350 RTOs**, with a combined staff of 150,000, an annual turnover of €15 Billion, special equipment and facilities to a value of many € billions and more than 100,000 customers from the public and private sectors annually.

http://www.earto.eu

TNO

TNO is a prominent, independent **knowledge company** whose expertise and research contributes significantly to the competitiveness of businesses and organisations, to the economy and to the quality of life as a whole. Versatility and capacity to integrate this knowledge makes TNO unique. **TNO employs some 4300 professionals**. TNO has **five core areas**:

- TNO Quality of Life
- TNO Defense, Security and Safety
- TNO Science and Industry
- TNO Built Environment and Geosciences
- TNO Information and Communication Technology

http://www.tno.nl/

CEA

In Europe the **CEA** is **one of the leading bodies for technological research** in the fields of **energy, defence** and **security**, and also in **information** and **healthcare technologies**. It guarantees the permanent capability of the French nuclear deterrent, which is one of its founding missions as the national atomic energy authority. The CEA is a source of expertise and proposals for public policymakers.

With more than 330 priority submissions in one year, it files more patents than any other public research organisation in France. The CEA runs nine research centres located all over France.

http://www.cea.fr/

ECN

The **Energy research Centre of the Netherlands (ECN)** is a leading institute in the Netherlands for **energy** and **environmental research** and **policy advice**. ECN focuses its activities on the needs of the energy industry and governments in their objectives and contributes to a sustainable development of a reliable, environmentally sound and cost-effective energy industry.

At ECN energy research is concentrated on themes that contribute to a globally sustainable use of energy. This includes the development of technologies for the use of renewable energy, energy storage and energy conversion, including low-emission combustion.

http://www.ecn.nl