

**PRESS RELEASE**

**EARTO AWARDS 2013 INNOVATION PRIZE TO VTT, CSEM AND  
FRAUNHOFER GESELLSCHAFT**

**DISCOVER THE VIDEO OF THE WINNERS [HERE](#)**

**Brussels, 4<sup>th</sup> December 2013**

Tonight EARTO awarded the 2013 EARTO Innovation Prize to **VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland** for the development of a technology paving the way to the next generation of **Allergy Vaccines**.

**The EARTO Innovation Prize** was awarded during a ceremony held at the *Théâtre du Vaudeville* in Brussels in presence of **Anne Glover, Chief Scientific Adviser, European Commission**. The Prize rewards recent innovations, developed totally or in part by RTOs, which have high social and/or economic relevance, innovative originality, and demonstrated practical application and viability. The prize is awarded by an independent jury, comprising: **Leopold Demiddeleer**, Director of Future Businesses, Solvay, Belgium, **Satu Hassi**, Member of the European Parliament, **Richard Hudson**, Founder and Publisher of Science|Business, London and Brussels, **Allyson Reed**, Director of Corporate Relations, University of Warwick, United Kingdom, **Christopher John Hull**, former Secretary General, EARTO.

**VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland Allergy Vaccines'** technology is an excellent illustration of how RTOs tackle grand societal challenges. Indeed if we look at the health care cost, allergies are considered to be in the top five disorders. The next-generation of allergy vaccines could have the potential to transform the quality of life of hundreds of millions of allergy sufferers worldwide if proven in clinical tests. By modifying the structure of proteins responsible for allergies so that they cause fewer symptoms while remaining effective in desensitisation therapy, the technology, which is still at an early development stage, could pave the way for the 'epidemic of the 21st century' to

be treated more precisely, safely and permanently than ever before.



Two other innovations were highly commended by the Jury: In Switzerland **CSEM's** silicon micro-components developed together with Swiss Manufacturers of luxury and high-end watches and in Germany the **ePuzzler** technology developed by Fraunhofer Gesellschaft.

**CSEM's** silicon micro-components developed together with Swiss Manufacturers of luxury and high-end watches, is an excellent illustration of how RTOs can have an economic impact at national scale and a proven practical application. CSEM has indeed contributed to the Swiss watch industry global competitiveness by supporting its developments of new innovative products not match outside Europe. The groundbreaking methods of working with silicon have led to the holy grail of mechanical watch making: unprecedented accuracy and reliability with less maintenance. Silicon micro-components produced through wafer-level fabrication are distinguishing a new generation of high-performance watches.

As an example, recently, Girard-Perregaux was awarded the distinction of the "Aiguille d'Or" at the Grand Prix d'Horlogerie de Genève 2013 for the Constant Escapement L.M timepiece. For more information on this award click [here](#).



**Fraunhofer Gesellschaft's e-Puzzler** is an excellent illustration of how RTOs have a social relevance supporting justice and re-writing history. Innovation is often match with looking forward, the e-Puzzler helps to look back in time by reconstructing torn documents. The e-Puzzler is an automated virtual reconstruction system, which is the only technology in the world enabling the virtual restoration of torn documents. It is able to solve what has been called 'the biggest puzzle in the world' - reassembling Stasi files destroyed after the fall of the Berlin Wall. One of the world's most sophisticated pattern-recognition machines, the e-Puzzler's impact will extend beyond reconciliation authorities to public security, the

entertainment industry, world cultural heritage and image processing.



On the same day, EARTO has published the 2013 edition of its "[Impact Delivered: Technology for Better World](#)" brochure, a collection of innovations featuring EARTO members which gives a flavor of the wide range of RTO's work. They include innovations at the leading edge of science and technology, but also clever combinations and integration of existing technologies to produce new opportunities and solutions for the industry.

**END** - For further information, please contact Kadija Taffah, *Membership, Events and Communications Manager*, EARTO, +32 (0)2 502 86 98



EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY ORGANISATIONS

## 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.

**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.

[www.earto.eu](http://www.earto.eu)

**VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland** is a leading multitechnological applied research organisation in Northern Europe. VTT creates new technology and science-based innovations in co-operation with domestic and foreign partners. Every third Finnish technology innovation contains VTT expertise. VTT's turnover is €290 million and its personnel totals 3,100.

[www.vtt.fi](http://www.vtt.fi)

**CSEM** is a Swiss research and technology organisation specialising in micro and nanotechnology, information and communication technology, photovoltaics and systems engineering, addressing also small series production when necessary for industry. CSEM creates a dynamic link between research and high-tech industry, and also collaborates with other innovation centres to provide appropriate solutions for cutting-edge products and applications.

[www.csem.ch](http://www.csem.ch)

**Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft** is the leading organisation for applied research in Europe. Its research activities are conducted by 66 Fraunhofer Institutes and independent research units at over 40 different locations throughout Germany. One of them is the Fraunhofer Institute for Production Systems and Design IPK. The Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft employs a staff of around 22,000, who work with an annual research budget totalling €1,9 billion. Roughly two thirds of this sum is generated through contract research on behalf of industry and publicly funded research projects. Branches in the USA and Asia serve to promote international cooperation.

[www.fraunhofer.de](http://www.fraunhofer.de)