

PRESS RELEASE

EARTO AWARDS 2014 INNOVATION PRIZE TO TECNALIA RESEARCH & INNOVATION, SP TECHNICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF SWEDEN AND FRAUNHOFER-GESELLSCHAFT

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

Brussels, 15th October 2014

Tonight EARTO awarded the first prize of the 2014 EARTO Innovation Prize to **TECNALIA Research and Innovation** in Spain for the development of BIOSIMIL, a computer vision based search engine that retrieves biopsy images stored in biobanks worldwide.

The **EARTO Innovation Prize** was awarded during a ceremony held on 15 October at the *BelVue Museum* in Brussels in presence of **Joaquín Almunia**, European Commissioner for Competition. The Prize rewards recent innovations, developed fully 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: **Jan-Eric Sundgren**, Senior Advisor to the CEO, Volvo, **Prof. Hans-Jörg Bullinger**, Member of the European Commission High Level Group (HLG) on Research, Innovation and Science Policy (RISE), **Clara de la Torre**, Director, European Commission, **Richard Hudson**, Founder and Publisher of Science|Business, **Allyson Reed**, Director of Corporate Relations, University of Warwick, United Kingdom, **Leopold Demiddeleer**, former Director of Future Businesses, Solvay, Belgium, **Christopher John Hull**, former Secretary General, EARTO.

TECNALIA Research and Innovation

BIOSIMIL is a computer vision based search engine that retrieves to clinicians biopsy images stored in biobanks worldwide by means of their visual clinical relevancy. BIOSIMIL will reduce by 60% the time taken by medical universities, research centres and pharmaceutical companies to find relevant samples for their research, helping to generate more relevant results, new clinical guides and knowhow and ultimately more appropriate treatments for patients. The technology is an excellent illustration of how RTOs tackle grand societal challenges. In 2012, 1.75 million people died from cancer in Europe alone. The cost to society is equally high, with every cancer patient costing health services €39,607, employers €205,847 and families €41,984. Final clinical diagnosis relies on histopathological biopsy assessments, yet research shows these can contain errors mainly related to lack of information during diagnosis.

For more information on this innovation click [here](#).



Two other innovations were highly commended by the Jury: **GreenFeed** innovation developed by **SP Technical Research Institute of Sweden** and **IND²UCE** innovation developed by **Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft**.

SP Processum, a part of SP Technical Research Institute of Sweden, has developed the GreenFeed innovation. It is a new kind of fishmeal substitute for farmed fish made from wood-derived sugars rather than wild fish byproducts. This innovation responds both to the growing demand for food as the world population is expected to reach 9 billion people by 2050, as well as to the preservation of the oceans as 80% of today's fish stocks are fully exploited. GreenFeed will also boost the efficiency, growth and sustainability of two European industries: aquaculture and forestry. For more information on this innovation click [here](#).



Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft IND²UCE innovation responds to the growing security challenges associated with technological interconnection and dependency. It helps prevent disclosure of confidential information, identity theft and loss of reputation and so contributes to making the digital world safer and more robust for business and for society at large. Data usage control allows controlling the dissemination and usage of your data beyond the initial access. It extends established access control and digital right management solutions while offering added value in the area of data security, thus addressing many of the daily data privacy and business challenges. For more information on this innovation click [here](#).



Commissioner Almunia said *"Research and innovation are drivers of economic growth. The European Commission has underlined the importance of investing in research and innovation as tools for competitiveness, growth and jobs. We need the political will to truly make the whole of the European Union a Research and Innovation Union"*.

Maria Khorsand, EARTO President, said *"These innovations are perfect illustrations of the role of RTOs in tackling economic and social challenges in Europe."*

On the same day, EARTO has published the 2014 edition of its **"[Impact Delivered: Technology for A Better World](#)"** brochure, a collection of ten innovations featuring EARTO members which gives a flavor of the wide range of RTOs' 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, *Deputy Secretary General, Membership and Communications*, 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 €23 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

Tecnalia Research & Innovation is the first private applied research centre in Spain and one of the most significant in Europe, with 1,500 experts from over 30 different nationalities focusing on transforming knowledge into GDP to improve people's quality of life. The centre creates business opportunities for companies through multi-disciplinary and applied research in the areas of sustainable construction, energy and the environment, innovation strategies, ICT, industry and transport, health and technological services.

www.tecnalia.com

SP Processum is owned by SP Technical Research Institute of Sweden, a centre for research and innovation which develops, tests and evaluates technologies, materials, products and processes for national and international customers. Providing an effective link between research and commercialisation, the Institute takes a holistic approach based on interdisciplinary cooperation to innovation in its core areas of building and construction, electronics and ICT, fire, risk, safety and security, foods, materials technology and chemistry and measurement technology and calibration.

www.sp.se - www.processum.se

The Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft is the leading organization for applied research in Europe. Its research activities are conducted by 67 Fraunhofer Institutes and research units in over 40 different locations throughout Germany. The Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft employs a staff of around 23,000, who work with an annual research budget totaling 2 billion euros. About 70 percent of this sum is generated through contract research on behalf of industry and publicly funded research projects. Branches in the Americas and Asia serve to promote international cooperation.

www.fraunhofer.de - www.iese.fraunhofer.de