

# Press Release



## Discover breakthroughs of ERC researchers at the Innovation Convention

**Brussels, 5 December 2011 – Four projects funded by the European Research Council (ERC) are represented in the Innovation Convention's exhibition today and tomorrow in Brussels. Together with the ERC President Professor Helga Nowotny, who will speak at a round-table on "Promoting public understanding of Science and Technology" on 6 December 2011, they will demonstrate with concrete experiments how important frontier research is for tomorrow's Europe. These grantees are amongst the 50 who were selected to present their research results to a wide audience, ranging from high-level policy-makers to top researchers, business leaders from all sectors as well as the general public. Around 1,200 people are expected to participate in this two-day event, organised by the European Commission's Directorate-General Research and Innovation.**

Ahead of the round-table that she will lead, ERC President Helga Nowotny said: *"I am very pleased to see such a high-quality research and innovation event taking place in Europe, which is fully in line with the efforts that the EU is putting into promoting science and innovation. The European Research Council supports excellent scientists by means of innovative grant schemes with the ambition to make Europe one of the most attractive locations for frontier research".* She added: *"I am therefore proud to see that the ERC is well represented at the conference with four of our excellent researchers being part of the exhibition and I encourage all those interested in breaking the frontiers of science to visit their stands."*

During two days, these ERC researchers from physical sciences and engineering, and social sciences, will showcase the concrete applications of their projects to the public (information on individual projects is annexed to this press release). The ERC participates in the event to demonstrate to the research community, business leaders and policy-makers the added-value of EU-funding for frontier research. Not only do ERC grants allow researchers to build their own teams and conduct their research in full independence, but they also contribute to maintaining and reinforcing the competitiveness of Europe on the world stage.

ERC President Helga Nowotny will chair a round-table on how to promote public understanding of science and technology, with Evolutionary biologist and former Professor of the Public Understanding of Science at Oxford University Richard Dawkins (Tuesday 6 December, Gold Hall, 15:00 - 16:30). Participants will be able to exchange views with the speakers. Issues such as the challenges of communicating the complexities of science, the importance of freedom in research and the role of new media in science will be raised.

As a flagship component of the 'Ideas' specific programme of FP7, the ERC aims to turn Europe into a more frontier research-oriented continent, leading to creating jobs and boosting economic growth. Frontier basic research is essential in stimulating innovation and bringing new or unexpected ideas to markets.



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
European Research Area



The ERC is established and funded through the EU's 7th Research Framework Programme

More information about the four ERC-projects  
at the Innovation Convention:

### **ERC grantee: Alberto Broggi**

Host institution: Università degli studi di Parma, Italy  
ERC project: Open intelligent systems for future autonomous vehicles (OFAV)  
ERC call: Advanced grant 2008  
ERC funding: € 1.751.066,54  
Visit the researcher's webpage:  
<http://www.ce.unipr.it/people/broggi/index.php>

**Stand n°. 28 - "Smart and Green transport" exhibition section**

### **ERC grantee: Marco Dorigo**

Host institution: Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium  
ERC project: Engineering Swarm Intelligence Systems (E-SWARM)  
ERC call: Advanced grant 2009  
ERC funding: € 2.016.000  
Visit the researcher's website:  
<http://iridia.ulb.ac.be/~mdorigo/HomePageDorigo/>

**Stand n°. 46 - "Robots of the future" exhibition section**

### **ERC grantee: Cathy Craig**

Host institution: Queen's University Belfast, Ireland  
ERC project: Temporal Enhancement of Motor Performance Using Sensory Guides (TEMPUS\_G)  
ERC call: Starting grant 2007  
ERC funding: € 860.924  
Visit the researcher's website:  
<http://www.qub.ac.uk/research-centres/PerceptionActionResearchLab/>

**Stand n°. 7 - "Longer and Healthier" exhibition section**

### **ERC grantee: Davide Iannuzzi**

Host institution: Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
ERC project: Fiber-top micromachined devices: ideas on the tip of a fiber (FTMEMS)  
ERC call: Starting grant 2007  
ERC funding: € 1.799.915  
Visit the researcher's website:  
<http://www.nat.vu.nl/CondMat/iannuzzi/people/iannuzzi.php>

**Stand n°. 37 - "Competitiveness and Industrial leadership" exhibition section.**



## Note to the editors

Set up in 2007 by the EU, the European Research Council is the first pan-European funding organisation for frontier research. It aims to stimulate scientific excellence in Europe by encouraging competition for funding between the very best, creative researchers of any nationality and age. The ERC also strives to attract top researchers from anywhere in the world to come to Europe. It funds both senior research leaders ('ERC Advanced Grants') and younger, early-career top researchers ('ERC Starting Grants'). The substantial funding is awarded based on peer review evaluation and can amount to maximum €2 million for a 'Starting Grant' and €3.5 million for an 'Advanced Grant'. Two additional, more limited forms of funding were introduced in 2011: the top-up grant 'Proof of Concept' targeted at ERC grant holders to fund the gap in the earliest stage of an innovation, between "blue sky" research and commercialisation, and the 'ERC Synergy Grants', launched on a pilot basis for exceptional proposals by a few small size groups of researchers working together.

The ERC operates according to an "investigator-driven", or "bottom-up", approach, allowing researchers to identify new opportunities in any field of research. The ERC, which is the newest, pioneering component of the EU's Seventh Research Framework Programme ('Ideas' Specific Programme), has a total budget of €7.5 billion from 2007 to 2013. It is led by the ERC Scientific Council, composed of 22 top scientists and scholars and the ERC President is Professor Helga Nowotny. The ERC Executive Agency implements the "Ideas" Specific Programme and is led by Director (ad. int.) Pablo Amor. The ERC's new Secretary-general Prof. Donald Dingwell took office on 1 September 2011.

## Links

### To register, click on:

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/ic2011/index\\_en.cfm?pg=media\\_corner\\_press](http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/ic2011/index_en.cfm?pg=media_corner_press)

### ERC Website:

<http://erc.europa.eu>

### On the Innovation Union:

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/ic2011/index\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/ic2011/index_en.cfm)

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