

Press Release – Sophia Antipolis, October 22, 2007

« *Nouvel Economiste* » 2007 Awards Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur

Nicholas Ayache receives the Best Researcher Award



On October 18, the *Nouvel Economiste* has distinguished figures in different economic fields in the Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur region.

Nicholas Ayache, senior research scientist at INRIA, is the recipient of the Best Researcher Award 2007 in recognition of his outstanding work in medical images for health.

Nicholas Ayache, born 1958, is a graduate from the *Ecole des Mines* in St. Etienne, he completed his *thèse d'Etat* (doctorate) in Paris in 1988. Senior Research Scientist at INRIA, he is currently Director of the largest French team in the field of analysis and simulation of biological and medical images, based at Sophia Antipolis.

He is one of the greatest international specialists in the field of medical and robotic images. He introduced these disciplines at INRIA in 1989 by creating the Epidaure and Asclépios projects that have since become truly seminal laboratories on a global level. He has also helped forge the construction of this relatively new discipline in France and abroad. He is an excellent scientist whose work has had a major industrial impact, and for whom the training of young scientists and engineers is truly of paramount importance. His activities have massively influenced his scientific and technological field in which he is one of the leaders at an international level. He excels in research in the fields of technology transfers and development, and is a top-rate PhD supervisor and large-scale project manager. He has intimate knowledge of the research and industrial worlds in the field of medical images and robotics, where health problems and information and communication technologies merge, and new technological, scientific and social challenges ensue.

Nicholas Ayache has always conducted his research activities with a clear vision of their application and development in mind. This is best illustrated by his 9 patents - 6 of which have received industrial licences - and his active participation in the creation of several start-ups (he co-founded four of them). Author and co-author of more than 200 scientific publications, Nicholas Ayache directed 41 theses completed between 1992 and 2006 and he is currently directing or co-supervising 8 theses -massively contributing to the expansion of this new discipline.

www.inria.fr/recherche/equipes/asclepios.en.html

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About INRIA – www.inria.fr/index.en.html

The French national institute for research in computer science and control is the only public institute entirely dedicated to research in information and communication science and technology (ICST). It has a 3,600 strong staff - 2,800 of which are scientists - distributed in six research units across France. INRIA has an annual budget of 160 million euros excluding VAT, 20% of which comes from its own research contracts and licences. INRIA has massive influence in the following fields: "networks, telecoms and multimedia", "complex systems and software" and "modelling, simulation and visualisation". It develops collaborations with the economic world through strategic industrial partners and by setting up open forums and creating companies (80 start-ups in 20 years) - particularly through its subsidiary INRIA-Transfert, promoter of four start-up funds.