

# FRANCE TECH INSIGHT

French Innovation News for New England  
2009

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Consulate General of France in Boston  
Office for Science and Technology

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## EDITO

Dear Reader,

Welcome you to the Summer issue of France Tech Insight, our monthly newsletter introducing the latest updates in science and technology in France.

First of all, we are glad to invite you to the Bastille Day Celebration organized by the Consulate on July 14th at the Liberty Hotel. You will find out more about this exciting event in our New England News section. The scientific section will be very happy to meet you there!

In the news this month you will notably learn about the next edition of our flagship conference **French American Innovation Day**, to be held on December 3 and 4, 2009 at the Harvard Medical School. Sponsored by the group Mérieux Alliance, the 2009 edition will notably include a scientific projects competition with a 300K€ winning price.

**AGORANOV, a leading French incubator in the Paris area** is our "Innovation Actor of the Month". In the last 8 years, AGORANOV supported 113 start-ups that created more than 800 jobs worldwide.

And like every month, you will find the latest updates in French science, technology and innovation.

I wish you a very pleasant reading and I look forward to reading from you shortly. No FTI is expected in August, the next FTI will be issued beginning of September 2009. If you take some, I wish you pleasant vacations and happy summer time!

Sincerely,



Antoine MYNARD  
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## NEW ENGLAND NEWS

### French American Innovation Day 2009 - 300K€ Scientific Projects Competition

**MERIEUX ALLIANCE** "Theragnostics and Biology : know-how challenges, applications and breakthroughs".

The 8th edition of the French American Innovation Day (FAID) will be held at the Harvard Medical School on December 3rd 2009. This flagship conference run by our Office with the partnership of [Mérieux Alliance](#) will this year include a **Scientific Projects Competition with a total price of 300K €**. The website will be on line shortly . Until this, please never hesitate to [contact us](#) for more information about the competition and the conference.

### Official Bastille Day Party - July 14 - Liberty Hotel - 9pm-2am - No cover!



This event is historical and not scientific at all!! But it definitely deserves to be pencilled on your diary as the scientific section (Aline, Yann and myself Antoine) will join this exiting event.

220 years ago, French revolutionaries stormed the Bastille prison in Paris. On July 14th, 2009, we will take over the Liberty Hotel in Boston and hope you will join us to celebrate Libert , Egalit , Fraternit  ! Hundreds of Francophiles (and French for

the night) will storm Beacon Hill's own Bastille - the Liberty Hotel - for a revolutionary evening of cocktails, dinner, dancing and joie de vivre! This fabulous fête is sure to be the most anticipated event of the summer. For more information, please contact Mathilde at [mathilde.jenn@diplomatie.gouv.fr](mailto:mathilde.jenn@diplomatie.gouv.fr).

### Partner University Fund 2010-2011



Grants provided by the Partner University Fund (PUF) support research and graduate education partnerships between French and American universities with emphasis placed on novel, innovative and, when relevant, interdisciplinary approaches that involve exchanges across national and disciplinary boundaries. Deadline for the 2010-2011 academic year: **December 15th, 2009**. [Learn more](#).

### Call for proposals for 2011 ESF Research Conferences

**EUROPEAN SCIENCE FOUNDATION** The European Science Foundation invites scientists to submit proposals for high-level research conferences to take place in 2011 within the framework of its Research Conferences Scheme in the following scientific domains: Molecular Biology - Brain, Technology and Cognition - Mathematics - Physics/Biophysics and Environmental Sciences - Social Sciences and Humanities. Applicants should be scientists/researchers based at European universities/research institutes in ESF Member Organization countries. Closing date for submission: **September 15th 2009**. [Learn more](#).

### Post-doc in hematology/oncology, Institut Gustave Roussy, Villejuif

A post-doctoral fellow position in hematology/oncology is available to join the team led by Dr. Thomas Mercher (INSERM EMI0210, chaired by Dr. Olivier A. Bernard). Projects include studies aimed at defining the mechanisms controlling normal and malignant hematopoietic stem cell differentiation using both in vitro and in vivo model systems. Studies will focus on the Notch pathway and novel genes mutated in hematopoietic malignancies. The laboratory is located near Paris at the Institut Gustave Roussy (Villejuif, France), which regroups internationally recognized experts in hematology and offers state-of-the-art facilities. Funded by a grant from ANR (Agence Nationale de la Recherche), the position is for 3 years starting fall/winter 2009. Successful candidates should hold a PhD and be highly motivated with a background in molecular and cell biology. Knowledge of the Notch pathway, hematopoiesis and/or development of animal models is preferred. Informal inquiries may be made at [thomas.mercher@inserm.fr](mailto:thomas.mercher@inserm.fr). Full applications should include a complete CV, a description of past research experiences and accomplishments, a summary of current and future research interests, career goals, expected availability date and three references.

### Post-doctoral fellow for the development of a Cryogenic Permanent Magnet Undulator, European Synchrotron Radiation Facility, Grenoble

Competence in one or several of the following fields is highly recommended: applied magnetism with emphasis on permanent magnets, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, cryogenic engineering, computer simulations, magnetic field measurement, and vacuum technology. Application deadline: **August 20th, 2009**. [Learn more](#).

## INNOVATION ACTOR OF THE MONTH



### 113 Businesses and 800 Jobs in 8 Years Thanks to the AGORANOV Incubator

The AGORANOV incubator was founded by Pierre and Marie Curie University (UPMC), Dauphine University, the Ecole Normale Supérieure (ENS, graduate school), and ParisTech in 2000. Chaired by UPMC President Professor Jean-Charles Pomerol, the incubator is tasked to facilitate the creation of innovative businesses, mainly in six areas (green innovations, engineering & services, corporate software, media & interactions, networks & the Internet, and life sciences). The incubator, which is backed by the Ministry for Higher Education and Research, the City of Paris, the European Social Fund, and the Ile-de-France Region, recently held its General Assembly where the Chairman hailed the incubator's results after 8 years in business, viz. 143 incubated projects have led to the creation of 113 businesses that have already generated nearly 800 direct jobs.

The incubator generated businesses have raised private funds amounting to nearly 80 million euros. The following companies are among the most successful ones in their fields:

- Aldebaran Robotics, on the verge of revolutionizing domestic robotics
- Echosens that has become the world leader in transient elastography, with a device that is marketed on several continents
- Climact that helps businesses manage the challenges of climate fluctuations, and their impact on corporate activity
- Visiotact that is fighting ophthalmological diseases on several fronts: prevention, treatment, and visual deficit compensation.

For more Info on the UPMC and Agoranov, contact Claire de Thoisy-Mechin - Phone: +33 (0)1 44 27 23 34 - email: [claire.de\\_thoisy-mechin@upmc.fr](mailto:claire.de_thoisy-mechin@upmc.fr) or visit the website :

### **CILAS Developing a Demonstrator for Remote Biological Agent Detection System**

In early 2009, the Delegation Generale pour l'Armement (DGA, French weapons procurement agency) charged CILAS, the laser technology and optronics specialist, with conducting a Prior Studies Program to develop a remote biological agent detection system based on the analysis of the fluorescence induced by laser excitation in the UV range. The three-year program is part of the broader Perseides program working on the development of portable ultra-fast sensitive analyzers of chemical and biological agents, by around 2015.

Remote chemical or biological detection is a topic that CILAS has been tackling for a long time. "Based on the experience we acquired during our granulometry activity, we started researching remote chemical detection in the late seventies. We continued this effort working ...

... Read More : <http://www.bulletins-electroniques.com/actualites/59499.htm>

### **EMMA Laboratory's Skills & Expertise - Controlling Transfers in Water Poor Matrices**

At Agrosup Dijon, the research topics at the EMMA (Eau, Molecules actives, Macromolecules, Activite; Water, Active Molecules, Macromolecules, Activity) Laboratory headed by Philippe Cayot may seem diverse at first. But a closer look highlights that the topics share the same focus, i.e., controlling transfers in water poor matrices. As EMMA applies the research to foodstuffs, wine, drugs, and plant-health products, the laboratory can pride itself in its high level of involvement in the accredited projects at the Vitagora competitive cluster. Laboratory EMMA is involved in seven projects, including one of the biggest called EMAC that is tackling active packaging development.

Cultivating multi-disciplinary

A lot has been said about research and the scientists practicing it; often by people ...

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### **Scilab Open Source Software Transferred to the Digiteo Foundation**

Scilab, which was designed by researchers from INRIA and Ecole Nationale des Ponts et Chaussees (graduate school of engineering), is a scientific computing tool tailored to meet the diverse needs of industry. The open-source software is an innovative flexible alternative to Matlab, its competitor. Scilab is now used by major industrial groups such as EADS and Renault, public research organizations, such as CEA (the French Atomic Energy Commission, CNES (the French space research agency), and Ecole Polytechnique (polytech graduate school). The Ministry for the Ecology, Sustainable Development and Spatial Planning advises the use of the open-source software to get used to the European structural design codes for building and civil engineering works. The software has an even bigger following ...

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### **Sniper Detection: The Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory Testing CILAS's SLD 500**

After several test campaigns run in different weather conditions, and over a range of distances, CILAS has just delivered two second generation models of its sniper laser detection system, the SLD 500, to the US Marine Corps Systems Command (MCSC). The first SLD generation has been operational since 1996. Now, the Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory (MCWL) will be able to run in-depth tests of system capabilities before using it to protect the US Armed Forces fighting in Iraq and in Afghanistan.

"The SLD 500 can detect optical scopes, binoculars, or any other kind of optical sight system," they explained at CILAS. Real-time information is provided before firing, meaning the armed forces' fast targeted answer on the theater of operations. "Depending on need, the system can be coupled with other sensors, such as acoustic detectors, heat cameras, and movement detectors," they said. CILAS CEO Jacques Battistella stated that he was, "Very proud to deliver the new generation of sniper detection systems to the US Marine Corps, thus contributing to the protection of the armed forces."

More Info:

CILAS - Veronique Trivero - Phone: +33 (0)2 38 64 40 14 - email: [trivero@cilas.com](mailto:trivero@cilas.com)

... Read More : <http://www.bulletins-electroniques.com/actualites/59503.htm>

### **Inauguration of a Taxonomy and Zooplankton Ecology Cluster**

Zooplankton comprising a huge diversity of organisms (roughly 36,000 to date) - some microscopic and others visible to the naked eye - plays a key part in the aquatic environment. It is the link in the food chain connecting the plant and animal worlds. A large number of zooplankton species have a fairly short life span and high growth rate. Consequently, detectable changes in the abundance or composition of the species can reflect the basic disruptions in their environment. The alterations also provide valuable clues to fish feeding conditions. That is why it is important to observe plankton communities.

The Taxonomy and Zooplankton Ecology Cluster headed by Elvire Antajan at the Manche-Mer du Nord IFREMER Center, was inaugurated last May 7. The cluster focuses on two research topics:

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#### LIVE FROM THE LABS

### Molecular Mechanism Enabling Bacteria Antibiotic Multiresistance Deciphered

Bacteria multiresistance to antibiotics first appeared in the fifties, following the widespread use of these drugs. It was subsequently discovered that resistance genes were easily captured, disseminated, and exchanged from one bacterium to another by a system involving the genetic "copy-paste" of the structures containing the genes, known as integrons. But the dynamics of the exchanges governing multiresistance development in bacteria remained unknown. This explains why the research findings of Pasteur Institute scientists working with the CNRS and INSERM at the Limoges School of Medicine, and with Spanish teams, are so important. The results were published in the May 22 issue of Science (SOS response controls integron recombination). They reveal for the first time how bacteria acquire ...

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#### SPOTLIGHT ON THE REGIONS

### A Major Project Called COAG for the Cheese-making Industry

Rennet, a coagulant extract from the abomasum, i.e., the fourth compartment of the stomach of young ruminants that are slaughtered before weaning, has two active fractions: chymosin that is dominant, and pepsin whose proportions increase as the calf gets older. Calf rennet is traditionally used as a milk coagulant in cheese making. The other animal, plant or microbial based proteolytic enzymes, including a genetically engineered fermentation chymosin, also have the property of coagulating milk. Today, 4 large groups and a dozen or so small businesses, including two based in France, share this huge market. The relative concentration stands to make cheese making enterprises strongly dependent on rennet suppliers. The situation is also alarming because each supplier produces enzymes with ...

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#### Acknowledgments

A large part of the scientific content included in the France Tech Insight is produced by our partner in France, the Agency for the Diffusion of Technological Information (ADIT). For more information, please visit its website.



**Thank you for reading, please feel free to give us your feedback and suggestions at [deputy2-inno.mst@consulfrance-boston.org](mailto:deputy2-inno.mst@consulfrance-boston.org)**



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