

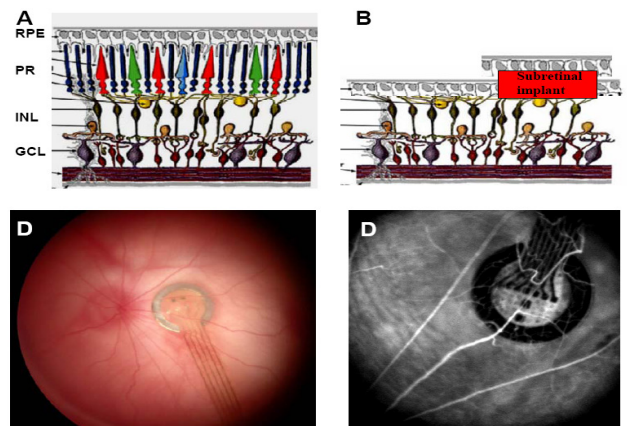
## The “Artificial Retina” project from Pr. José Sahel Laureate of the Altran Foundation 2007 Award

On Monday October 1st, the Award Ceremony took place at the Maison de la Chimie in Paris. On this occasion the name of the 2007 Altran Foundation Award Laureate on the theme “**Mending the human body, through technological innovation**” was revealed. The Award went to the “**Artificial Retina**” project from **Pr. José Sahel**. After auditing the 6 finalists on September 7<sup>th</sup> 2007, the jury headed by Pierre Tambourin - Chief Executive of Genopole - decided to reward the exceptional innovation supported by Pr. Sahel and his team.

### AN ARTIFICIAL RETINA THAT ENABLES BLIND PEOPLE TO PARTLY RECOVER VISION

Nowadays, 1.5 million people in the world suffer from retinal photoreceptor degeneration and this number is constantly increasing because of the extension of life expectancy. Professor Sahel and his team at the **Vision Institute** from the Quinze-Vingts hospital in Paris have set up an artificial retina. This project aims at enabling visually impaired and blind people to read big characters and to move in a limited space.

**The retinal prosthesis will be introduced at the original position of the photoreceptor to stimulate the remaining retinal cell layers and thus produce visual images.** The current prototypes underline the need for a technological step at the tissue/implant interface. A multidisciplinary consortium - composed of physicians, ophthalmologists, chemists, micro-electricians, biologists, patients... - has therefore been constituted to produce retinal implants, new biocompatible diamond structures and highly photosensitive materials.



Industrial partners will soon be involved with the project to handle production constraints regarding the prototypes' realisation planned in 2009. The first artificial retina is intended to be available in 2013.

## A UNIQUE AND ORIGINAL GRANT

### A scientific and technological support that could value up to €1 million!

As every year, the award winner will be offered a financial grant of **€16.000** plus **one year of technological and personalised support**, for use in the furtherance of the project. More precisely, the winner benefits from the unique expertise and know-how of the **17.000 international consultants and managers** at Altran, in terms of **research** and **scientific innovation**: technological development, design, industrialisation, cost optimisation, project management, market studies, marketing, partnership searches, fund raising, communication, multimedia, corporate strategy, ...

An audit of the laureate project will be conducted soon in order to define the objectives of our collaboration.

### SOME FIGURES ON THE 2007 AWARD

This year again, the Altran Foundation Award has been a huge success. More than **500 people** downloaded the application form on [www.altran-foundation.org](http://www.altran-foundation.org) and finally **137 project holders** applied. During the different selection steps, the best 40 projects had been short listed in May and last June the 6 finalists were chosen.

The 2007 Award received the support from **Mr. Markos Kyprianou**, Commissioner responsible for Health and Consumer Protection.

### About the Altran Foundation

Since it was created in 1996, the Altran Foundation has been intended to support and promote innovation for the general good, in several areas of application. Altran wishes to be socially committed by mobilizing and uniting the group's strengths around strong values such as creativity, innovation, independence, etc. The Foundation Award is international, with candidate projects coming from some twenty European countries as well as the United States and Brazil.

The jury that decides who deserves the Foundation's Innovation Award each year is totally independent from Altran. It consists of international experts chosen for their reputation and skill in the fields encompassed by the theme specific to the year. The members of the jury base their decision on several selection criteria. These include the response to the problem posed by the theme, the general interest of the project, its innovative nature, viability and the motives and competence of the project owner.

A pioneer in the field of sponsoring competence, the Altran Foundation experience has been widely recognized, as evidenced by the 2006 Award of Admical (a corporate philanthropy association) - Fondation de France, which rewards the originality and durability of the Altran Foundation actions. Moreover, it won the 2002 Special Jury Prize. These awards recognize philanthropic and sponsorship programmes in all fields.

### About Altran

Altran is the European leader in innovation consulting and high technology. The Group's 17,000 consultants, operating worldwide, cover the entire range of engineering specialities, including electronics, information technology, quality and organisation. Altran offers its clients ongoing support throughout the innovation cycle, from technology watch, applied basic research and management consulting to industrial systems engineering and information systems. The Group provides services to most industries, including the automotive, aeronautics, space and telecommunications sectors.

Founded in 1982, Altran operates in 20 countries. In 2006, it generated a turnover of €1,495.4 million.

[www.altran-foundation.org](http://www.altran-foundation.org)

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