



PRESS RELEASE

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European Association for Biometrics (EAB) establishes new pan European research collaboration

Today the EAB announces a new pan European research initiative, the EAB-CITeR Consortium. The model is based on the very successful Center for Identification Technology Research (CITeR) from the US. According to this model a dynamic and direct cooperation between European research institutes, industry and end users is established. Research activities are targeted by the participation of end users, while exploitation and commercialization opportunities are ensured by the participation of industry.

Structure and Procedure

The EAB-CITeR operates as an independent consortium, established as an EAB Committee. Research institutes (Partners) can only join the consortium for free by bringing end users and/or companies (Affiliates) on board with them. At a yearly meeting research institutes present their research proposals to an EAB-CITeR selection committee consisting of end users and companies through a 10 minutes elevator pitch, supported by a brief description of objectives, outcomes and methods. The selected proposals are being communicated to the research institutes immediately after the selection committee meeting took place. This short track procedure, which contrasts the usual demanding and time consuming pathways for obtaining research funding, ensures a dynamic environment and a high probability of getting a research proposal granted. Through this multidisciplinary environment, it is expected that organisations will enjoy a golden age of biometric development, leading to rapid improvements in current biometric technology and the realization of novel technologies for operational use.

Funding

The research is funded by the Affiliates through a yearly fee. In return they receive a vote at the selection committee meetings and rights for further development and exploitation of the research results. Only research institutes that are Partners in the Consortium will be eligible to apply for research funded cooperatively by the Affiliates of the EAB-CITeR Consortium. Fees for becoming Affiliate of the Consortium range from 5.000,00 € to 20.000,00 € per year.

Operation

The EAB-CITeR Consortium is operated by the Swiss Center for Biometrics Research and Testing (www.biometrics-center.ch, part of the Idiap Research Institute) and chaired by Dr. Sebastien Marcel (*photo right*). Co-chair is Prof. Raymond Veldhuis (University of Twente), who is also chairman of the EAB Academia Special Interest Group.



Sebastien Marcel:

"The EAB-CITeR is a major initiative for European research in



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biometrics and related identification technologies. If successful as in the US, the EAB-CITeR will provide a full scale of research opportunities in parallel of existing programmes. The major difference is the compact and quick application process and the dynamics created by the involvement of end users and industry.”

For the EAB, which has a unique and strong foothold in the European research community, this initiative is an important step in its mission to bring European R&D in biometrics to a next level.



Alexander Nouak, chairman of the EAB:

“The EAB has an excellent position to develop such a major European initiative. Having over 160 members coming from industry, academia, research institutes and end users we have the critical mass to build out the EAB-CITeR Consortium towards a successful pan European cooperation. The ultimate goal is to carry

out high quality research, to train talented engineers and researchers, and to foster technology transfer from academia to the industry for the benefit of Europe under the full governance of the EAB.”

EAB-CITeR Inauguration Event

The official inauguration of the EAB-CITeR will take place during the European Biometrics Symposium, which will be held in London at the National Physical Laboratory on 25 February 2015. You can register for the event here: <http://eab.org/events/program/86>.

More information?

For more information on the EAB-CITeR Consortium you can go here: <http://eab.org/expertise/com/ecc.html>

If you have questions about this press release or about the EAB, please contact Max Snijder at the EAB Secretariat: secretariat@eab.org (t. +31624 603809).

If you would like to know more about joining the EAB-CITeR Consortium you also contact Sebastien Marcel directly at ecc-chair@eab.org

About the EAB

The European Association for Biometrics (www.eab.org), founded in November 2011 and located in The Netherlands, is a pan-European non-profit association seeking to advance the proper and beneficial use of biometrics in Europe, taking into account the interests of European citizens, industry, academia and governments. The EAB is the European platform for biometrics, currently having over 160 members from 35 countries. Driven by developments in connection with immigration challenges, the requirements of e-passport implementations and a whole range of emerging commercial applications, the EAB fulfils the role of an independent and multi-stakeholder platform where stakeholders can meet, exchange information and visions, discuss new initiatives and benefit from training and education programs. The stakeholder groups represented by the EAB include operators, governments, industry, research, academia and citizens. For more information about the EAB please contact secretariat@eab.org.