

PRESS RELEASE

Montpellier, France, April 28, 2008

INRIA and Université Montpellier 2 Sign a Scientific Partnership Agreement

On May 5, 2008, Jean-Louis Cuq, President of the [University of Montpellier2](#) and Michel Cosnard, President of [INRIA](#), will sign a framework agreement setting out the general terms of a scientific and technological partnership under the auspices of the [INRIA \(EPI\) project teams](#), which has as its primary goal developing a center for ICST excellence in Montpellier, Southern France.

As part of its general policy as set out in its [2008-2012 Strategic Plan](#), INRIA is implementing its regional expansion in close collaboration with local universities, schools and research bodies. This approach aims to encourage the growth throughout France of centers for excellence in Information and Communication Science and Technology (ICST) at the highest international level.

The University of Montpellier2, as part of its own scientific policy as set out in the university's Four Year Contract for 2007-2010 with the French Ministry of Higher Education and Research and the State-Region Plan Contract for Languedoc-Roussillon 2007-2013 (CPER), is continuing to expand the ICST campus with a view to seeing Montpellier become a center for excellence in Information Science and Technologies, Communication, Structures and Systems, bringing together on one campus, three labs: the Southern Electronics Institute ([IES](#)), the Montpellier IT, Robotics and Microelectronics Lab ([LIRMM](#)), the Mechanics and Civil Engineering Lab ([LMGC](#)) as well as the National Interuniversity Center for Higher Education ([CINES](#)). This campus is a part of the university's own MIPS, Math, IT, Structures and Systems division, one of the major research entities at the Montpellier facility.

The [INRIA Sophia Antipolis – Méditerranée research centre](#) seeks to structure and amplify its scientific activities at Montpellier and in the Languedoc Roussillon region, in the ICST and Agronomics specialties, notably with The University of Montpellier2 so as to jointly lead a dynamic scientific policy. INRIA and UM2 seek to build a strong partnership which should facilitate the creation of joint project teams, whether involving these two partners or opened to include others. The partners have been encouraged by the initial success of the [DEMAR](#) (Deambulation and Artificial Motion) project team, a joint venture between [CNRS](#) and The University of Montpellier2 as part of LIRMM (UMR 5506 – the Montpellier IT, Robotics and Microelectronics Lab), a project-team in which the [University of Montpellier 1](#) is also a partner.

To affirm this partnership and set out its governance, INRIA and The University of Montpellier2 have sought, in this context, to setup a contractual framework organizing their partnership.

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About INRIA

Status: A public scientific and technological research agency reporting to the ministries of Research and Industry.

Leadership: Michel Cosnard, CEO of INRIA; Jean-Pierre Verjus, Deputy Managing Director.

Annual Budget (2008): 186 M€, more than 20% of which is provided by outside sources, such as businesses, French and European government agencies and communities.

Regional Research Centers: Paris – Rocquencourt, Sophia Antipolis – Méditerranée, Grenoble – Rhône-Alpes, Nancy – Grand Est, Rennes – Bretagne Atlantique, Bordeaux – Sud-Ouest, Lille – Nord Europe, Saclay – Ile-de-France.

150 research project groups, 85% of them shared with other major organizations, schools and universities.

2800 researchers, 1,000 of them doctoral candidates

790 active research contracts

89 businesses created since 1984.

To find out more: <http://www.inria.fr>

About the University of Montpellier2

The University of Montpellier2 excels in its research activities, divided into five divisions: Agronomics, Food stuffs, Biodiversity, Environment; Biology-Health; Chemicals; Math, IT, Structures and Systems and Management Sciences for Education and Training. These research activities are undertaken by 47 research labs and six doctoral level training schools.

The excellence achieved by The University of Montpellier2 is confirmed by worldwide university rankings, the so-called "Shanghai ranking" which places the University in ninth place among French universities.

The University hosts 15,000 students, 1,030 doctoral candidates and staff of 2,850 who maintain close links with industry, through both research contracts as well as an involvement in knowledge transfer organizations or through company startups, with a total of 139 companies founded in ten years.

To find out more: <http://www.univ-montp2.fr>