

## Call for Contributions

# FutuRIS 2010 Award

### Background and Issues

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*The FutuRIS foresight platform coordinates think-tank efforts and publishes research work (including a yearly reference book), on the topic Research-Innovation-Society, in order to enable informed decision-making and support the deployment of the strategies defined by the players involved. This includes, for instance, analysing the structure and workings of the French research and innovation system (SFRI), its international positioning and its likely development taking into consideration the issues already identified.*

Innovation and research are two of the leading socio-economic issues today. Discussions and initiatives abound with the aim of helping public and private players to structure their activities appropriately and effectively. Yet many questions remain, whether with regard to secular trends or factors likely to create uncertainty or major upheaval, and the consequences thereof. In an environment hovering between crisis and the road to recovery, the importance of developing consistent strategies designed to address major societal issues (climate change and sustainable development, food, health, etc.) has become all the more acute. Public and private players are stepping up their efforts and cooperation programmes to deal with these issues and play their part in international competition.

In France, since 2005, the research and innovation landscape has undergone profound change, through major reforms aimed at providing better-allocated and more effective governance and stimulating initiatives on the part of public and private players: CIR reform (tax breaks for research), the independence of universities, national strategy, agency creation or reform (ANR, OSEO), cooperation systems (PRES, RTRA-CTRS, Instituts Carnot, etc.). a great deal now hinges upon how players will respond, rearranging themselves to take on new responsibilities (alliances, etc.) and thereby giving rise to a wide variety of pathways and prospects.

Action is also being taken in many arenas at the European level, in order to make progress in building the European research area. There too, recent instruments (European Research Council, European Institute of Innovation and Technology, technological platforms, etc.) and new ideas or projects (reworked innovation policy, joint programming, variable-structure specialised projects, etc.) have opened up prospects that now need to be explored further.

## Focus

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FutuRIS is now opening up a call for contributions under its 2009-2010 Working Programme. This third edition of the FutuRIS Award carries a €6,000 endowment for the two winning texts (€6,000 for 1<sup>st</sup> Prize and €6,000 for 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize, respectively). Its aims are, first, to bring together and publish texts produced by experts or players in research and innovation in its yearly FutuRIS 2010 book, which will be issued in Autumn 2010, and secondly, to sustain interaction between FutuRIS and its environment.

## Rules and Deadline

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Abstracts (500 to 1,000 words long) are to be handed in by 15 December 2009, on which date receipt will be confirmed to the authors. Final abstract selection will be determined by a judging panel by 8 January 2010.

The complete texts elaborating on the selected abstracts (6,000 to 12,000 words) are to be submitted by 20 March 2010.

All abstracts and texts must be sent to [futuris@anrt.asso.fr](mailto:futuris@anrt.asso.fr), as an electronic Word document.

The judging panel will announce its selection by mid-April 2010 at the latest. At that time, it will award:

- a First Prize worth €6,000,
- a Second Prize worth €6,000.

The selected texts may be later published in the FutuRIS 2010 work, “Research and Innovation in France” (publishing house: Odile Jacob), under the guidance of Jacques Lesourne and Denis Randet, or a separate work distributed through the FutuRIS and ANRT networks.

The judging panel reserves the right not to award a prize.

## Selection Criteria

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- Subject set within the broader scope of current events (impacts of the crisis and dealing with the post-crisis period, the future of universities, national research and innovation strategy, Treaty of Lisbon, etc.) and put in perspective.
- Subject relevantly-positioned with respect to the issues at stake in the organisation of research and innovation (consideration for the broad perspective, foresight-based approach, avenues for action suggested, controversial aspects highlighted, etc.).
- Thesis grounded in sound rationale, theoretical or empirical.
- Attention to ensuring that findings are applicable to other situations and give rise to lessons of substance that can guide public action, private strategies or, barring this, provide a better understanding of innovation mechanisms.
- Drafted in a style accessible to a non-academic audience.
- Written in French or English.

## Topics<sup>1</sup>

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For guidance purposes, below are some of the key topics that fall within the scope of FutuRIS’ current focal areas: public research and intervention policy in Europe and across the world – the positioning of France in Europe and in the world – France’s contribution to innovation in Europe – relations between sciences, technologies and society – defining research and innovation priorities – promoting the results of public research.

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<sup>1</sup> The Table of Contents of previous FutuRIS books may be requested from FutuRIS’ standing team: [futuris@anrt.asso.fr](mailto:futuris@anrt.asso.fr)

# FutuRIS

FutuRIS is an independent strategic foresight platform run by the French National Association for Research and Technology (ANRT). It is in charge of analysing and lending perspective to developments in the French research and innovation system (SFRI), inform the decision-making process and support the deployment of coordinated strategies.

Toward this end, FutuRIS deploys a foresight-based approach underpinned by solidly-documented reference points and on the contrasting views of players and experts from a variety of backgrounds.

FutuRIS is supported by some thirty contributors (Ministries, agencies, research institutions, companies), with the support of Académie des sciences and Académie des technologies.



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