

P R E S S R E L E A S E6th October 2009**The Laboratoire National de Métrologie et d'Essais
awards its first research prize**

The Laboratoire National de Métrologie et d'Essais (LNE) carries out research – one of the key components of its contract with the French government – in the fields of measurement, consumer protection, health products and sustainable development. LNE oversees the French metrology network, set up to provide industry and society as a whole with the infrastructure required to control measurements and ensure their traceability to the international SI system.

A research prize has been created to honour researchers at LNE and at laboratories in the French metrology network. The first such prize was awarded on 29 September 2009, to André Clairon, a research engineer at LNE-SYRTE (Time-Space Reference Systems) at the Observatoire de Paris.

André Clairon has made a considerable contribution to the development of optical frequency measurements in France. He played a key role in building an optically pumped cesium beam clock, developed the first cesium atomic fountain in collaboration with fellow researcher Christophe Salomon, and has used cold atoms to develop inertial sensors such as gyrometers and gravimeters. André Clairon is also co-managing the ACES/PHARAO cold atom space clock project.

The Laboratoire National de Métrologie et d'Essais (LNE) is a state-owned enterprise with 770 staff. It provides expert services to all companies and bodies concerned with product quality and safety. LNE's five core activities are research, calibration and consulting in metrology, testing and analysis, certification, and training.

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