



Press Release

United States Researcher, One of Six Finalists, Competes for a Year's Free Technology Consulting Sponsored by the Altran Foundation for Innovation

Boston, Massachusetts – May 16, 2005 – The Altran Foundation for Innovation has selected six finalists out of 110 submitted applications representing 15 countries who exemplify this year's theme **"Overcoming Social Exclusion through Science and Technological Innovation."** The 2005 Altran Foundation for Innovation award goes to innovations that facilitate the inclusion of people in our society. This cross-disciplinary theme requires a multi-dimensional approach to issues such as health, transportation, housing, lifelong learning, education and training as well as access to services, employment, and resources. Applications under consideration include:

- A Brain-Powered Remote Control for Paralyzed People
- Helping People Walk Again
- Better Guidance for the Blind and Visually Impaired
- An Electric All-Terrain Wheelchair
- The Internet Helping the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- A Wheelchair Guided by User Interface

The winner or winners will be announced on June 16th at the gala 2005 Awards ceremony which is being held at the Paris headquarters of UNESCO. Since 1997, the Altran Foundation for Innovation has been partnering with companies whose new concepts or ideas not only benefit the community but also provide an alternative view to traditional thinking.

For the Altran Group, this represents an opportunity to showcase the technological talents of its management consultants, help companies further develop their ideas into actual product offerings, and illustrate the success that companies can achieve if the right resources are strategically applied to any challenge.

Jonathan R. Wolpaw at the Laboratory of Nervous System Disorders of the Wadsworth Center in the United States has been selected as one of six finalists. His work gives severely disabled people an innovative communication aid by developing a new generation of brain-computer interfaces that can provide both communication and control functions. By recording brain waves from the scalp and then decoding them, this creative new system allows people to move a cursor up and down and left and right, to spell words, and even to control a robotic arm.

As stated by Pierre Dreux, Vice President of The Altran Foundation for Innovation, “We are delighted to have been in receipt of applications that represent new ways of thinking in our society. Our Foundation consistently seeks out researchers or companies that have a great idea but need the fortitude of talented professionals to bring it to fruition.”

Frederic Deriot, Executive Director of Altran North America, states, “The Altran Foundation for Innovation is an excellent vehicle that allows genuine innovators - or visionaries - to build upon their ideas and overcome existing business or technological hurdles. The technological support that we provide to the winner or winners not only exemplify the different lines of services that Altran can provide to its customers but also provide our consultants with an innovation platform that leverages their experiences and out-of-box thinking in entrepreneurial ways.”

Edith Ackermann, Professor, and currently a Visiting Scientist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), School of Architecture, Center for Advanced Visual Studies, has also joined the Altran Foundation for Innovation’s Board of Directors. To her, the most exciting aspect of the Foundation’s work is its commitment to excellence. “Our College of External Members is globally diverse in talents, disciplines, and experiences. The members of the jury are recognized scholars and accomplished professionals.” For additional information on The Altran Foundation for Innovation, please visit our website: www.altran-foundation.org

About Altran Technologies S.A.

The Altran Group, represented by the holding company Altran Technologies S.A. traded on the Paris stock exchange, is a recognized leader in innovation and technological consulting worldwide. They are pioneers in the field of innovation consultancy, providing the entire range of engineering and consulting specialties, from physical sciences to electronics and information technology, and from industrial systems engineering to strategic and management consulting. Altran employs over 16,000 people globally, is present in 19 countries (e.g., Europe, USA, South America & Asia) and helps companies leverage technologies and knowledge to sustain and strengthen their market presence. For more information, visit <http://www.altran.net>.

About Altran North America

Altran North America is a network of companies that designs solutions tailored to a company’s business. We help companies create new products and solutions, master technologies, hone processes to achieve operational success, and build the capability for innovation within your organization. At any stage of the business life cycle, Altran can assist a company’s quest for innovative solutions by bringing together diverse expertise at the right time. Altran consults to the following industries: energy, life sciences, automotive, technology, aerospace, consumer goods, financial services and many more. Altran understands both the urgency of business needs and the nature of change. For more information, visit <http://www.altran-na.com>.