



Research Scientist & Research Manager

Robotics and Information Sciences & Technologies

Former student at the Mechanical Engineering Department of *Ecole Normale Supérieure de Cachan*¹ and University of Paris, holding a PhD in Automatic Control from the Montpellier University, Dr. François Pierrot now holds the position of *Directeur de Recherche*² for the French National Centre for Scientific Research (**CNRS**) in the Laboratory for Computer Sciences, Robotics and Microelectronics of Montpellier (**LIRMM**).

Since January 2005, he is Deputy Director of the LIRMM, an academic research center with 300 scientists.

For more than 15 years, he has been working to create new robots considering simultaneously mechanical design and control strategies, on theoretical aspects as well as in close cooperation with industrial partners. He has authored or co-authored numerous scientific papers and international patents. His innovative research has been distinguished in France, in Europe and in Japan for results in various fields such as medical robotics, entertainment robotics or industrial robotics. He is currently involved in fundamental research projects at national level (SHERPA, aiming at the design of a walking machine, and OBJECTIF 100G, targeting ultra-high speed manipulation) or at European level (NEXT, new generation of machinery, is the 4th EU project for which he is the scientific responsible for CNRS). He is also involved in several applied research projects in cooperation with the **Fatronik Foundation**, Spain. Recent successes include the creation of an innovative 4-dof parallel robot, transferred to the world leader of high-speed robotics: **Adept Robotics**, USA.

He has served from 2005 until 2008 as President³ of the National Committee which evaluates French research laboratories in Communication & Information Technologies (Section 07 of the **Comité National de la Recherche Scientifique**). He participated in the creation of the first Japanese-French joint laboratory for robotics, **AIST-CNRS JRL**, in 2003 and is now a member of its Scientific Committee.

On the industrial side, after being instrumental in the creation of the company **Wany Robotics** which received the National Prize for Innovative Companies in 2000, he has served President of the Board until 2008. Several research creations have been transferred to industries:



Quattro

[industrial robot – world speed record] with Adept Robotics, USA and Fatronik Foundation, Spain



Pekee

[education-entertainment robot] with Wany Robotics, France



Hippocrate

[medical robot for 3D US Imaging] with Sinters Co. And Broussais Hospital, France



Hexa

[industrial robot – distinguished by the Robotics Society of Japan] with Toyoda Machine Works, Japan

Academic Positions

2002– ...	CNRS Director of Research, LIRMM (<i>equivalent to Full Prof.</i>)
1995–2002	CNRS Senior Researcher, LIRMM (<i>equivalent to Associate Prof.</i>)
1995–1996	U.C. Irvine, Visiting Researcher, California, USA
1991–1995	CNRS Researcher, LIRMM (<i>equivalent to Assistant Prof.</i>)
1988–1991	CNRS Young Researcher, with a National PhD Grant
1984–1987	Student of <i>Ecole Normale Supérieure de Cachan</i> (special student position including salary by the French National Government; such positions are granted after a national competition)

¹ One of the most prestigious Engineering School in France

² This translates as « Research Director » and designates an academic position equivalent to "Full Professor" in the French research system.

³ This position is obtained after being elected by all research scientists in ICT fields in France

Distinctions & Prices

- 2008 Prize for Innovation, **ADER Languedoc-Roussillon** (pick-and-place robotics)
- 2007 **Finalist of IEEE/IFR Invention Award** (industrial robotics)
- 2003 Prize for Innovation, **ADER Languedoc-Roussillon** (medical robotics)
- 2002 *IST Prize*, **European Commission** (robot for education)
- 2000 Prize for Creation of Innovating StartUp Companies, **French Ministry of Research**
- 1995 Prize for Innovation, **Robotic Society of Japan**, (industrial robotics); first non Japanese researcher to get this prize.
- 1992 *Best Paper Award*, ISRAM '92, Santa Fe, New Mexico, **USA** (robust control)

Publications (since 1990)

- 24+ journal papers
- 10+ participations to scientific books
- 110+ conference papers
- 8 international patents

Management & Evaluation of Research Activities

- **President of the National Evaluation Committee for I-C Technologies** (2005-2008)
 - Evaluation of 500+ high-level professional researchers
 - Evaluation of 100+ academic research laboratories
 - Recruiting of 20~30 young researchers each year, for the most prestigious academic research positions nationwide
- **LIRMM Deputy Director** (2005-...)
 - Management of 140+ permanent Professors & Researchers and 140+ PhDs
 - Overall budget around 13~15 M€
- **Team manager** « Robots with Complex Architecture » at LIRMM (1992-2004)
 - Management of 4 European research projects
 - Creation and management of 10+ full scale robotics experimental setups
 - Management of numerous research contracts with industries
- **Responsible of the National Research Network** « Autonomous Robotics » (2001-2003)
 - Launching of new specific research topics
 - Creation of National Research Platforms
- **Management of National Research Projects**
 - 2 projects funded by the PIR Robea (on Parallel Robotics) both involving 5 laboratories (2000-2004)
 - 2 project funded by ANR, the French National Research Funding Agency (2006-...)
- **Creation of the JRL**, the first Japanese-French Robotics Laboratory (2003)
- **President of the Board, Wany S.A.**, a LIRMM's spinoff in robotics (2001-2008)
- **Expert acting as Reviewer for European Commission** Research Projects (2003-...)

Teaching & Advising

- **Student Adviser** (since 1991)
 - 6 PostDocs (2 are currently being supervised)
 - 22+ PhD Students (5 are currently being supervised)
 - 20+ Master Students
- **Direct Teaching**
 - Applied Control and Robotics (1990-2000): engineering projects at Montpellier Engineering College (graduation year)
 - Medical Robotics (2001-2007): lectures at the *Ecole Supérieure d'Electricité* (engineering college, graduation year)

Academic background

- 2001 *Habilitation* to become Director of Research, *Université Montpellier 2*
- 1991 PhD in **Robotics**, *Université Montpellier 2*
- 1988 Master in **Automatic Control**, *Université Montpellier 2*
- 1987 *Agrégation* in **Mechanical Engineering** (*Agrégation* is a teaching diploma granted after a national competition)
- 1986 M.S. in **Mechanical Engineering**, *Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Cachan - Université Paris 6*