



**Annual Report
2014-2015**

Vietsch Foundation

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The Vietsch Foundation started its activities on 23 February 2014, with the goal of supporting research and development of advanced Internet technology for scientific research and higher education.

This report covers the period from the start of the activities until 31 December 2015, in combination with the Financial Statements 2014-2015.

The Vietsch Foundation fulfills its goals in two ways.

1. By contributing funding to specific research and development projects that demonstrate potential value to progress European and global research and education networking
2. By awarding an annual medal of honour to people who contributed to the development of a service, technology or approach that will be of lasting value to the research and education networking community and its users.

The Board of Trustees of the Vietsch Foundation is charged with the direction of the Foundation and the management of its capital and is composed of the following members:

- Valentino Cavalli, Chair
- Bert van Pinxteren, Treasurer
- John Dyer, Secretary
- Antoinette Vietsch, Member at large

The first meeting of the Board was held in Amsterdam on 14 April 2014, to deal with initial administrative matters, the establishment of a website and communication platform, and first orientation on the ways of fulfilling the goals of the Vietsch Foundation. In total, the Board of Trustees held five meetings in 2014 and six meetings in 2015.

The Vietsch Foundation has a public website, <http://www.vietsch-foundation.org/>, to provide general information about the organisation and its activities and as a repository of news articles. The branding elements of the website, particularly the logo of the Vietsch Foundation, are the result of a donation by the Trans-European Research and Education Networking Association, TERENA.

Most of the activities in 2014 were related to the establishment of the web site and the communication platform, to the planning and establishment of mechanisms for the annual award of the medal of honour and for project funding. On the financial side, work was needed to administer the assets and legacy of the late Karel Vietsch. This work extended well into 2015 as at the end of that year some of the assets had not been sold yet.

The first medals of the Vietsch Foundation were awarded during 2015. Based on the result of a public call, the Board of Trustees decided to award the medal to two equally deserving recipients:

- Andrew Cormack, Chief Regulatory Adviser at Jisc, for his role in advancing trust and security within the European research and education sector;
- Roland Hedberg, senior researcher at the University of Umeå, for his activities in the specification and development of essential components of current Authentication and Authorisation Infrastructures (AAI).

The medals were awarded on 18 June 2015, during the TNC2015, a prominent research and education networking event managed by GÉANT.

At TNC15 a leaflet encouraging proposers to submit ideas for project funding was distributed. The Vietsch Foundation received only one offer, through direct contact with the Board. After successful negotiation the proposal resulted in a contract for the Productisation of Federation Lab Test Harness, signed with Identinetics GmbH on 1 December 2015. The project has several components, some of which receive funding from GÉANT activities. The Vietsch Foundation has awarded 24,960 EUR for a 12-month period for the review and documentation of test cases.