The European Young Researchers’ Award

EVALUATION SUMMARY

The International Selection Committee for the European Young Researchers’ Award 2012 appointed by the Euroscience Board, has selected Dr. Davide Scaramuzza for the 2012 EYRA. This year the EYRA was to recognize researchers with up to five years experience after their first PhD, who have demonstrated outstanding research performance and leadership and have incorporated a clear European dimension into their research. Following this selection, Euroscience has decided to grant the 2012 EYRA to Dr. Scaramuzza. The International Selection Committee was pleased to receive fifty high quality applications (of which 45 were eligible). The Committee first selected the candidates with the highest scientific quality, in line with the character of the EYRA. From those it selected the candidates with the strongest European profile and leadership qualities. Dr. Davide Scaramuzza was one of two candidates whose scientific quality was unanimously judged to be excellent. He received the highest total score on all criteria from the committee members in the evaluation of the 45 candidates. In a teleconference, the Committee confirmed that the highest ranking candidates indeed met the criteria of EYRA and merited further discussion. This discussion resulted in the unanimous and enthusiastic choice of Dr. Davide Scaramuzza as the 2012 EYRA laureate.

His thesis presents three important engineering contributions, capped with a fundamental scientific advance via his algorithmic approach to the utilization of omnidirectional vision in support of environmentally-referenced navigation of mobile robots. His excellent research achievements show in numerous and highly cited articles and book chapters, a toolbox for one of the most employed commercial simulators, two tutorials for IEEE RAM, a patent in autonomous mobile robots and the prestigious Robotdalen Scientific Award for his doctoral thesis.

The EU dimension of his work is without a doubt, having successfully (number 2 out of 120 proposals) applied as a lead author for and coordinated the 3-year EU sFy Project with five other EU partners.

His leadership and communication skills are commendable as demonstrated by the list of students at PhD, Master and Bachelor level that he has and is supervising. He is also perceived by his seniors "as the future leader in his field in ten years". The Committee was impressed by his record as keynote speaker at international conferences and seminars since 2009.

In summary, Davide Scaramuzza wonderfully combines the qualities sought after in our call for the European Young Researchers Award: his research is of the highest quality with an impressive list of publications and awards at quite an early age; his leadership and communication skills are evident from his many key note lectures, from his involvement in teaching and supervision and from his collaborations with industrial partners; and, last but not least, his many academic and industrial
European partners and his successful co-ordination of the EU project sFly illustrates European research co-operation at its best.

The International Selection Committee consisted of Eugene Gheorghiu, Christine Heller del Riego, Lauritz Holm-Nielsen, Maria Wikse, Raymond Seltz and Chair John Marks,