



Innovation and R&D Manager  
Expert in paper, nano-cellulose  
and printed electronics

Gaël DEPRES



## PERSONAL INFORMATION

- French, 50 years old, married, 2 children (18, 22), based near Grenoble (France)
- French, mother language – English, very good level – German, school level

## EDUCATION

- 1996-1999      Ph. D. in process engineering      Grenoble INP and ABB Cellier
- 1995-1996      DEA (Master) in process engineering      Grenoble INP – France
- 1993-1996      Engineering degree in paper making      Grenoble INP PAGORA France,  
ranked first in class
- 1991-1993      Preparatory classes for “High schools”



Grenoble, france



Verona, Italy

# PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES

2023 **Senior Innovation & Grenoble R&D Center Manager** - FEDRIGONI Group (2,2 Md €, 5000 people)

Manage the French R&D center for the group, development of new products, Innovation platforms and collaborative projects.

2019 **R&D Director** - ARJOWIGGINS GROUP (150 M€, 800 people).

Definition of R&D roadmaps, selection and following of projects, of patents, of the R&D budget (1 M€) and development of collaborative projects (10 projects), mainly Europeans.

Since 2014 **Board member and treasurer** of the French association for printed electronics (AFELIM)

2009 **Manager for Exploratory research and partnerships** - ARJOWIGGINS CREATIVE PAPERS.

Development of new products: smart papers (RFID, smart labels, sensors), nano-cellulose, fine papers, luxury packaging. Collaborations with many European partners.

2008 **Manager for exploratory research** - GROUP ARJOWIGGINS. In charge of pre-projects with Artistic director. Development of partnerships with connected industries.

2006 **R&D Director** for the VISUAL COMMUNICATION (Fine paper, Art paper) Branch of ARJOWIGGIN (350 M€ ).

Member of the executive comity, following of R&D projects and managing of R&D budget (3 M€).

2003 **R&D Business Leader** for Fine paper, Art Paper and Microfibers (HEPA and ULPA filters and battery separators for Bernard Dumas division) ARJOWIGGINS (Apprieu, France). Management of R&D projects portfolio.

Member of the innovation team - ARJOWIGGINS (since 2003). Technologic watch of new processes and products (electrospinning, encapsulation...).

1999 **Research Engineer** - ARJOWIGGINS (Apprieu, France).

1996 **Teacher Assistant** - INP PAGORA et ENSEE (Grenoble, France).

1996 **Research assistant** - LYDALL AXOHM (Melrand, France)

# PUBLICATIONS, CONFERENCES, COLLABORATIVES PROJETS, PATENTS and AWARDS

- 10 **scientific articles** realized on specialty papers, nano-cellulose and printed electronics.
- 27 **conferences as speaker** and 2 as participant (France, Europe and US).

Management of 3 PhD thesis (nano-cellulose and printed electronics).

Management of 26 masters (Grenoble INP, Mines Saint Etienne, Universities of Montpellier and Tampere).

- Active participations in 11 **collaborative projects** (INNPAPER, SUPERSMART, MADRAS, INNPRESSME, CIRCEL ...).
- Filing of 22 **patents** (specialty papers, printed electronics and nano-cellulose), most of them as main inventor.
- 8 **Awards** received between 1996 and 2021 (OEA, IDTECHEX, WORLD TECHNOLOGY AWARDS, ...).

# COMPETENCES

## Definition of Innovation strategy

- Building of Innovation and R&D Roadmaps.
- Innovative spirit

## Management of R&D

- Management of a multicultural and geographically dispersed R&D team (up to 20 people) and of a R&D center.
- Usage of methodical process to manage R&D, with selection of projects, following of projects with Gantt charts, setting and following of budgets, following of patents portfolio.
- Capacity to convince top Management (with data on the profitability) of projects
- Patents management

## Technical Expertise

- Fine papers (touch effects, optical effects, textures...), art papers, luxury packaging, specialty papers.
- Printed electronics: Antenna design, printed sensors, display and battery.
- Plastic replacement : Nano-cellulose: Development of a range of nanofibrils and improvement of paper for plastic replacement in packaging. Barrier coating of Nanocellulose and of polymer coatings.



# Achievements

## **In management :**

- Managed a multicultural (French, Spanish, English, Scottish) R&D team, including central R&D and laboratories in factories (Spain, England and Scotland). Successfully agglomerated all the team.
- Developed a strong ecosystem : Schools (Grenoble INP Pagora, Phelma..), national/European research centers (CEA, VTT, Fraunhofer, CIDETEC, Eurecat,..) and connected industries. Improve the R&D of Arjowiggins up to an international level.
- Developed a portfolio of collaborative projects (mainly Europeans) with more than 2 Millions Euros fundings on 11 projects.
- Used with success methodologic R&D process (Management of Technology), with projects selection, with go/nogo gates and with project team (Marketing/sells, R&D and technical in factory).

## **In technical :**

- Industrialized many innovative papers : Soft Touch, Skin, Cosmic, Bamboo, Sludge paper, Smart papers, Anti-virucidal paper, Transfer papers range...
- Improved many existing papers : Sensation, HEPA/ULPA filters, battery separators, Digital (Indigo), Art papers, thin opaque, medical papers...
- Built a printing industrial line for printed electronics in Spain (Guarro) with innovative processes to enable the NFC antenna printing in one pass (mainly used EU fundings to build it).
- Developed a range of nanocellulose for plastic replacement
- Received many awards and filed many patents during my carrier, managed the patents portfolio properly

# What I recommend

- Always do what you like to do (Money is not the top priority)
- Increase your network to have collaborations
- Travel to know other ways of doing things
- Be serious but have fun



# Perspectives

- Continue to develop new products in the field of printed electronics and nanocellulose
- Have a societal impact on the :
  - Plastic to paper replacement to reduce the environmental impact of packaging
  - Connected objects to ease the life of consumers
- Continue to work in a company in R&D but still continue to work very close to University and research institute and on collaborative projects

# Thank you for your attention

**DEPRES Gaël**

Senior Innovation & Grenoble R&D Center Manager



FEDRIGONI F1 PAPERS

10 rue Jean Arnaud

38500 VOIRON, France

M +33 632 550 769

[gael.depres@fedrigoni.com](mailto:gael.depres@fedrigoni.com)

[www.fedrigoni.com](http://www.fedrigoni.com)