

Attention : monsieur le président directeur général de l'INRIA

Recommandation letter for Maxime Lefrançois

I have been working in the energy since 1985, successively in charge of electric grid simulation, B2C marketing & sales, electricity and gas business development for the French DSO. I became CEO of the Regional Electric & Gas DSO of Burgundy (France) in 2003 and was in charge of the market opening during this period. Then I became CEO of GDFSUEZ Magyarország (Hungary), in charge of the local merger between Electrabel and Gaz de France. After a short mission of corporate recovery in photovoltaics sector for ENGIE (Belgium), I joined the Research and Technology Department of ENGIE as Project director, in preparation of a new business model for ENGIE.

I am currently R&D senior executive at ENGIE leading different corporate team in charge of preparing the future of ENGIE. As the coordinator of the "SEAS Project" at ENGIE (France), my current research interest includes application of power system planning, stability, control, reliability and security at grid and customer level through real-time data exchange IT systems.

The **SEAS (Smart Energy Aware Systems) ITEA2** project enables interactions for all market players in real time for consumption and production energy systems, automation and ICT Information and Communications Technology systems in order to optimize global energy consumption. This Project has involved 37 companies (7 countries) and 85 FTE researchers for total amount of 24 M€ and ended in December 2016.

Maxime Lefrançois joined my project in November 2015 and took the management of the tasks related to knowledge management and ontologies. This is at the heart of the project because our aim is to promote innovative business via "semantic interoperability". It means not only open the access to the data, but we also contextualize data and use-cases throughout knowledge management solutions. Maxime first developed and animated a wiki instance to encourage domain experts to collaborate on the Knowledge Model¹. He then supported the organization of a workshop (December 2015) by ENGIE premises to all project partners. This workshop intended to disseminate the added-value of semantic web and knowledge management modelling. A total of 45 people participated each day during 3 days to plenary sessions, and parallel sessions to learn about the ontologies and to capture the requirements for the SEAS Knowledge Model.

As the project coordinator of the SEAS project, I can testify that Maxime Lefrançois had a decisive impact on the directions given to the project. May it be on the use of Semantic Web

¹ <http://wiki.the-smart-energy.com/>

formalisms and technologies, demonstration (the use of the Semantic Web technologies in the pilots was considered as too ambitious before his arrival), standardization (Maxime is leading a direct connection with the W3C), and in terms of pedagogy (a very abstract way of thinking, to be shared with non-specialists).

As a direct consequence to its commitment, we signed a 18 month Engie/Armines-fayol bilateral research contract related to semantic web and knowledge management (a topic absolutely unknown previously by ENGIE)

The SEAS project ended in December and I just learned it will be awarded by EUREKA/ ITEA in May 2017 as "the most decisive step toward energy transition of the last 10 years"

As a conclusion, I can testify about the decisive impact Maxime Lefrançois had on a project considered by our pairs as unique and distinctive.

Paris, 2017 Feb 21st



Philippe BOURGUIGNON