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What is Idiap?

The Idiap Research Institute (Idiap) is a non-profit research organization located in Martigny, Valais, Switzerland, and is closely affiliated with (but not part of) the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology at Lausanne (EPFL). It was founded in 1991 to further research in advanced information and computer sciences technologies, with a generic goal of developing technologies “improving the quality of life”.

Accredited (and partly funded) by the Federal Government, the State of Valais and the City of Martigny, Idiap’s activities currently take place in the context of large national and international collaborative networks and projects. Most of its activities revolve around the general theme of “Human and Media Computing”, currently covering the following research areas (and in which Idiap is often playing a pioneering role):

- **Perceptual and cognitive systems**
  - Speech processing
  - Natural language understanding and translation
  - Document and text processing
  - Vision and scene analysis
  - Multimodal processing
  - Cognitive sciences (online learning, categorization)

- **Social/human behavior**
  - Web social media
  - Mobile social media
  - Social interaction sensing
  - Social signal processing
  - Verbal and nonverbal communication analysis

- **Information interfaces and presentation**
  - Multimedia information systems
  - User interfaces
  - System evaluation

- **Biometric user authentication**
  - Speaker identification/verification
  - Face detection/identification/verification
  - Multimodal biometric user authentication

- **Machine learning**
  - Statistical and neural network based ML (strong)
  - Computational efficiency, targeting real-time applications
  - Very large datasets
  - Online learning
Objectives of the Idiap Corporate Sponsoring Program

While Idiap is very active in fundamental research and in the development of large collaborative research programs, we are also proud to be very much “system driven”, i.e., driven by shared long-term visions and continuous by-product applications. We are also very well aware of the need of continuous feedback from (and interaction with) industry, through (1) collaborative projects, (2) creation of spin-offs or incubation of young start-ups, and (3) exchange programs, and (4) corporate sponsorship:

1. Collaborative projects: Idiap currently has several (usually well focused) research projects directly funded by industries. In this case, the research project is precisely defined in collaboration with the two parties and resulting IPR is discussed on a case-by-case basis.

2. Creation of spin-offs or incubation of young start-up: In collaboration with the State of Valais, Idiap has set up its own technology transfer and start-up incubation instrument through an independent company IdeArk. For more information, see http://www.ideark.ch.

3. Exchange program: Although also part of the current Corporate Sponsoring Program (limited to industries), Idiap has set a large scale international visitor program, which is discussed in detail in the document “The Idiap International Visitor Program”.

4. Corporate sponsorship program: In addition to the above, Idiap also have a specific corporate sponsorship program to boost long-term interaction with industries through training of industrial visitors, joint research programs, etc. While depending on the level of sponsoring and the goals being sought, the main mission of the present sponsoring programs can be summarized as follows:
   - To ensure complementary funding for IDIAP
   - To allow the industry to be involved with current research
   - To offer a platform for information, meeting, cooperation and interaction between industrial and research partners
   - To encourage meeting and interaction between scientific collaborators from different industrial partners.

Contact points

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Idiap Corporate Sponsorship Program

Depending on the importance of their financial commitment and the strength of the established relationship, Idiap offers companies the opportunity to be involved at different levels, as discussed next.

[Note that all amounts mentioned below are exclusive of VAT.]
IDIAP Support Members

(in principle, this status is reserved for small businesses)

Advantages

Regular information on the activities of IDIAP:

1. Provision of publications and research reports.
2. Invitation to participate in the annual IDIAP Symposium. This provides a forum for the demonstration of recent developments, as well as the interaction between researchers and the different partners.
3. Facilitated access to software developed by IDIAP (in so far as the software in question is free of rights).
4. In the event a significant level of support is requested, a specific agreement will have to be established.
5. Access to IDIAP for advice and information on technologies within the domain of IDIAP’s research. If consultation requiring a significant study is requested, a specific agreement will have to be established.
6. Mention as a support member in the annual report of IDIAP.

Contribution

Payment of a minimum amount of CHF 10,000 per year.
IDIAP Affiliated Members

Advantages

(1) Regular information on the activities of IDIAP.
(2) Provision of publications and research reports.
(3) Invitation to participate in the annual IDIAP Symposium. This provides a forum for the demonstration of recent developments, as well as the interaction between researchers and the different partners.
(4) Facilitated access to software developed by IDIAP (in so far as the software in question is free of rights). In the event a significant level of support is requested, a specific agreement will have to be established.
(5) Access to IDIAP for punctual advice and information on technologies within the domain of IDIAP's research. If consultation requests requiring a significant study of work is or if requests are repeatedly placed, a specific agreement will have to be established.
(6) Ability to invite IDIAP researchers for conferences.
(7) On request, and subject to the agreement of those involved, access to the CVs of doctoral students.
(8) A position for one or more scientific visitors, corresponding to a maximum of one person per year. The visitor(s) will have access to a work-station and administrative support, as well as the computer resources and databases of IDIAP. They will be integrated into the research groups of IDIAP and the eventual result of their contribution will belong to IDIAP. IDIAP will be consulted on the choice of visitors, and will have the right of veto. The visitor will receive an allowance from IDIAP (CHF 1,500.- per month). The remaining expenses and renumeration of the visitor are the responsibility of the sponsoring company.
(9) Mention as an affiliated member in the annual report of IDIAP.

Contribution

Payment of an amount of CHF 120'000.- /year (including allowance paid to visitor(s)).

Duration

To take account of the stability required for research, in principle a minimum 2 year term applies, with automatic renewal subject to cancellation with 12 months' advanced notice.
IDIAP Sponsor Members

Advantages

(1) Regular information on the activities of IDIAP.
(2) Provision of publications and research reports.
(3) Invitation to participate in the annual IDIAP Symposium. This provides a forum for the demonstration of recent developments, as well as the interaction between researchers and the different partners.
(4) Facilitated access to software developed by IDIAP (in so far as the software in question is free of rights). In the event a significant level of support is requested, a specific agreement will have to be established.
(5) Access to IDIAP for advice and information on technologies within the domain of IDIAP’s research. If consultation requiring a significant study is requested, a specific agreement will have to be established.
(6) Ability to invite IDIAP researchers for conferences.
(7) On request, and subject to the agreement of those involved, access to the CVs of doctoral students.
(8) Positions for scientific visitors, corresponding to a maximum of two full positions per year. The visitors will have access to a work-station and administrative support, as well as the computer resources and databases of IDIAP. They will be integrated into the research groups of IDIAP and the eventual result of their contribution will belong to IDIAP. IDIAP will be consulted on the choice of visitors, and will have the right of veto. The visitor will receive an allowance from IDIAP (CHF 1,500.- per month). The remaining expenses and remuneration of the visitor are the responsibility of the sponsoring company.
(9) Ability to request that the visitors be associated with particular research directions, at the complete discretion of IDIAP.
(10) Mention as a sponsor member in the annual report of IDIAP.

Contribution

Payment of an amount of CHF 180'000.- /year (including allowance paid to visitor(s)).

Duration

To take account of the stability required for research, in principle a minimum 2 year term applies, with automatic renewal subject to cancellation with 12 months’ advanced notice.
**Research Partners**

Research Partners are companies involved with particular research projects which finance a minimum of two researcher positions with a related contribution of at least CHF 350,000.- /year during a minimum term of 2 years.

As the main partners of IDIAP, Research Partners receive all the general benefits offered to other partners. Research Partners have an observer’s seat on the Board of Management (except for closed sessions).

The exact benefits granted, as well as the amount of the contribution, will be determined in the specific agreements established with each Research Partner.

In particular, the agreement will determine the definition of the research project and, to the extent appropriate, the terms and conditions in connection with the exploitation of the results. The agreement also provide the way the association of the Research Partner with the project is presented and manifested.