



## **PRESS RELEASE**

Brussels, 10 January 2002

### **Pierre De Muelenaere, Chairman and CEO of I.R.I.S. Group is elected "Manager of the Year 2001"**

**Brussels, 10 January 2002** – I.R.I.S. (Euronext Brussels: IRI), the leader in Automatic Document Reading (ADR), Electronic Document Management (EDM), data storage and Optical Character Recognition (OCR), is pleased to announce the election by the magazine Trends-Tendances of Pierre De Muelenaere, 43, founder, Chairman and CEO of I.R.I.S. Group, as "Manager of the Year 2001".

This first event in the IT sector for the year 2002 took place on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2002 in the presence of the Prime Minister, Mr. Guy Verhofstadt, at a reception held at the Heysel Auditorium 2000.

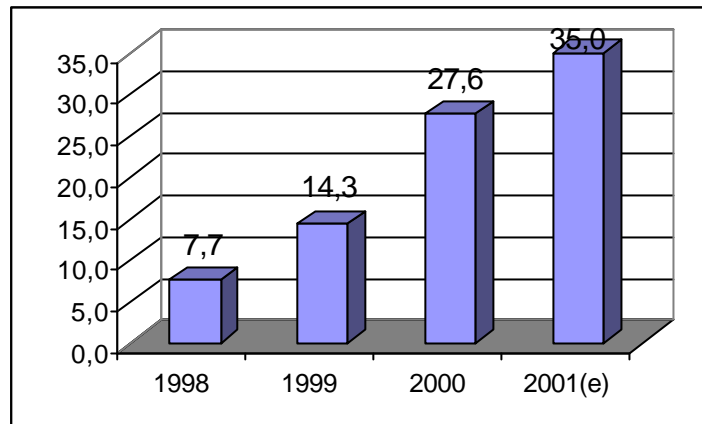
Pierre De Muelenaere is the 17<sup>th</sup> manager to be elected by the readers and a jury consisting of representatives of the editorial staff of Trends-Tendances, in collaboration with the Association du Management, the BMMA and previous Managers of the Year. He succeeds Christian Jacqmin, the Managing Director of Sonaca, who was Manager of the Year 2000.

Each reader had three votes to award to three of the ten pre-selected managers: Abbas Bayat – Chaudfontaine, Gérard Damski – Carglass, Jean-Pierre Delwart – Eurogentec, Jean Deneumostier – Editions Dupuis, Pierre De Muelenaere – I.R.I.S. Group, Eric Domb – Parc Paradisio, Hugo Powell – Interbrew, Gilles Samyn – CNP, Philippe Vander Putten - Proximus, Luc Willame – Glaverbel.

The three candidates who won most votes, Pierre De Muelenaere, Eric Domb, and Luc Willame, were retained as "nominated", and then decided on by a jury consisting of representatives of the editorial staff of Trends-Tendances, the Association du Management, the BMMA and previous Managers of the Year.

Pierre De Muelenaere is an electronics civil engineer (1981) and holds a Doctorate in Applied Sciences from UCL. He founded I.R.I.S. on the basis of the result of his research into document recognition, in 1987. As manager, he took part in every stage of the development of the company.

The company grew considerably in the years 1998 - 2001, moving from a turnover of 7.6 million € in 1998 and a team of 70 to a turnover of 35 million € and a team of 250 in 2001. The company has been a beneficiary for 10 years and was successfully launched on Euronext Brussels in May 1999.



Pierre De Muelenaere owes his selection to the change coming into the company towards business products (processing paper and electronic documents), reinforced this year by the takeover of Euriged and Amos Monétique, French companies specialising in automatic document reading. These operations have put the company at the head of the business market in France and Benelux.

I.R.I.S. also sells its office automation products (Readiris – [www.readiris.com](http://www.readiris.com), IRISPen – [www.irispen.com](http://www.irispen.com), IRIS Business Card Reader) in North America, South America, Europe and Asia.

I.R.I.S. clients include prestigious names such as BBL, INS, the Gendarmerie, the Caisses Primaires Allocation Maladie, the Caisses d'Allocation Familiale, the European Community, the Luxembourg Parliament, HP, Kodak, Agfa, etc.

Pierre De Muelenaere's reaction is: "This title of Manager of the Year is the culmination of the wonderful work done by all the I.R.I.S. team. We have grown impressively over these last years. We even think that our turnover targets for 2001 will be achieved, which is remarkable in view of the extremely difficult market conditions in the IT sector. At the same time, the company has very significantly improved its technological potential and product quality. The company is a technological and economic venture, but above all a splendid human adventure, and it is thanks to the spirit and motivation of our teams that we have been able to achieve our targets."

The year 2001 has been a year of recognition for I.R.I.S. Group, which has also had the honour of appearing among the 6 finalists selected for "Business of the year".

#### **About I.R.I.S.**

Image Recognition Integrated Systems (I.R.I.S.), a Belgian company founded in 1987 listed on Euronext Brussels (IRI), is a leader on the Optical Character Recognition (OCR) market, the Automatic Document Reading (ADR) and the Electronic Document Management markets.

The I.R.I.S.' activities are organized along two major axes:

#### **"Office Products & Technologies"**

I.R.I.S. develops and markets worldwide a complete range of OCR applications for the home and office users. Its famous products are :

- **IRISPen II:** a pen scanner that allows capture text and figures in any application at the stroke of a hand. The pen scanner is available in the Standard version (reads text and figures)

and Executive version (reads text, figures, handprinted numbers, barcodes and includes a text-to-speech module).

- **Readiris Pro:** an OCR package for flatbed scanners, "all-in-one" devices and digital cameras. Readiris Pro recognizes colour documents in up to 93 different languages, sends the recognition results directly to Word or Excel, saves the OCR results in the most famous formats including HTML, supports the PDF format. Today, more than 8 million copies were sold. Readiris Pro was selected by Hewlett-Packard, Agfa and Compaq, Panasonic, etc.
- **I.R.I.S. Business Card Reader and Cardiris:** a complete hardware and software solution to scan, index and recognize business cards. Your contacts are easily exported in your PDA's or contact database thanks to the single click export to Outlook or the export options of Cardiris.

### "Professional Systems"

I.R.I.S. also offers solutions for the professional user to de-materialize paper documents, share and distribute the documents over the intranet/extranet/Internet and archive and store the electronic documents. The main solutions are:

- **Automatic Document Reading (ADR) and Intelligent Document Recognition (IDR):** document capture of forms (ADR) and non-structured documents (IDR) in paper or electronic formats.
- **Electronic Document Management (EDM):** organization, indexing, query and sharing of electronic documents.
- **Knowledge Management:** high-level consulting services to organize, preserve and optimally use the collective knowledge present in a company.
- **Archiving and Data storage:** design, architecture and installation of storage, archiving and electronic data security solutions.

In 2000, I.R.I.S. Group had a turnover above € 27,6 million. In 2001 the estimated sales figures are € 35 million.

I.R.I.S. employs more than 240 employees based in Louvain-la-Neuve and Brussels (Belgium), Massy and Rueil-Malmaison (France), Luxembourg, Boca Raton and Atlanta (USA).

For more information on our company, our solutions or our products, visit the I.R.I.S. web site at <http://www.irislink.com>.

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