



## French Public Agencies Amongst the Most Innovative in the World according to Reuters

Published on Monday March 21, 2016

View online : <https://www.france-science.org/French-Public-Agencies-Amongst-the.html>

In March 2016, the press agency Reuters published a ranking of the most innovative public institutions for research in the world. French agencies were well placed in the rankings with the CEA (French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission) taking the top place on the list, the CNRS (The National Center for Scientific Research) coming in at number five, and Inserm (French Institute for Health and Medical Research) taking the tenth spot. [1]

### The ranking of the most innovative public research agencies in the world:

In March 2016, Reuters published a ranking of public research agencies: The *Top 25 Global Innovators-Government* comprises the public research institutions that have contributed the most to advancing the fields of science and technology around the world. This ranking is based on the integration of specific information related to intellectual property, patent related information, as well as published articles in Thomson Reuters' databases in the past eight years. The top 25 public agencies are classified by 10 criteria including: the total number of recent publications, the percentage of publication including co-authors from industry, the total number of patents applied for by the institution with the WIPO (*World Intellectual Property Organization*), the total number of patents successfully received by the institution, the percentage of patent application in the United States, Europe, and Japan, or the number of patents in the patent citation index. [2]

### Results: three French institutions in the top 10!

The CEA took the top spot in the ranking, above the Fraunhofer (Germany) at the Japan Science and Technology Agency. In a press release, the French agency attributed its first place ranking as a leading agency "not only to the number of important patent applications filed, but also and surely due to the sheer number of successful patent applications compared to the number submitted for application". Indeed, the agency submitted a total of 2252 patent applications (WIPO) submitted between 2008 and 2013, primarily in the energy sector (nuclear and renewable), for semi-conductors, in the chemical sector, and for final consumer products. 81.2% of these applications were successful, and these patents are among the most frequently cited by outside researchers. Complementing French excellence, the CNRS secured the 5th place on the list and Inserm came in at number 10. [3] Thanks to these three institutions, France is the most well represented country in the top 10, ahead of Japan and the United States with only 2 institutions each, followed by Germany, South Korea, and Singapore.

1. Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission (FRANCE)
2. Fraunhofer Society (GERMANY)
3. Japan Science & Technology Agency (JAPAN)
4. U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (USA)
5. National Center for Scientific Research (FRANCE)
6. Korea Institute of Science & Technology (SOUTH KOREA)

7. National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science & Technology (JAPAN)
8. U.S. Department of Energy (USA)
9. Agency for Science, Technology & Research (SINGAPORE)
10. **French Institute of Health & Medical Research** (FRANCE)

In addition to the top 10 ranking, the **Pasteur Institute** takes the 17th spot. The European continent represents 9 of the **Top 25** making it the most innovative continent according to Reuters.



Battery pilot plant in CEA Liten headquarters, Grenoble, France

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#### Footnotes

[1] Reuters Ranking: <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-innovation-rankings-idUSKCN0WA2A5>

[2] Reuters Ranking Methodology: <http://www.reuters.com/global-innovators-government/methodology>

[3] Press Release including the reactions of the leaders of CEA, CNRS and INSERM :  
[http://www2.cnrs.fr/sites/communique/fichier/cp\\_charte.pdf](http://www2.cnrs.fr/sites/communique/fichier/cp_charte.pdf)