

Fraunhofer-SmartCard Award 2019 for Pascal Roux



Dear Pascal,
dear friends and guests of the SIT-SmartCard Workshop,

I am much pleased, to have been invited again by the SIT-SmartCard Award Jury to spend a few appreciating words for honouring one of this year's prize winners, Mr. Pascal Roux, besides Mr. Hauke Meyn.

Particular personal reason for my pleasure is the fact that you and me have known each other for 25 years and have always had a maximally constructive and efficient cooperation. And clearly more. I personally feel friendship with you beyond your extraordinary professional presence.

Coming now to a few details about you.

During the many years I do not know any other Pascal Roux than a very modest person, extremely talented in several facets and much successful in finding consensus and compromises in very difficult technical matters and situations. Please, audience, be aware of the fact that hundreds of details have to be

specified in a way, that a contactless card or NFC phone works reliably in masses of application scenarios. Worldwide! And serving millions of people!

That major task has been successfully achieved by your chairing the Task Force 2 of the ISO contactless working group WG8, for 25 years!, in combination with masses of input of your expertise and penetrant checking each detail of the 14443 standard series, including their test methods, throughout the many years, up to today.

Let me please a little bit illuminate your history. I am sure that nobody here would be astonished to hear that your career as an engineer started when you were nine years old. An electricity box for children has fascinated you at that time, which had led to more and more fascination. Your skills have ever been to create and to invent things, so that, no wonder, you had been rather bad in school for subjects which had to be learnt and known by heart.

Logical further steps of your professional education are first class accomplishments regarding your scientific high school graduation (“baccalauréat”), then in the famous “Classes Préparatoires aux Grandes Écoles” and finally in the challenging engineer school ENSEA with best grades at the end.

Topics like automotive electronics, on-board electronics, hardware design with complete software developments had been professional steps when you were employed in the companies Sagem, Alcatel and others. However, Paris was not your town to continue your career. You were loyal to Valence, where you were finally hired in 1990 by that company, today in the Conduent group, for which you have worked until today.

Although you had succeeded in developing ticketing systems as project manager, your boss at that time, in 1992, wanted you to investigate and study a topic with

a high probability of future market chances. "Contactless" was the promising topic! As known today, your boss was right!

Successive technology transfers with e.g. Buscom, Tactel, Mikron and Innovatron increased quickly your experiences and knowledges. You built the contactless device of the first contactless validator of your company in 1995 and made contactless experiments and pilots with SNCF in the years 1993 up to 1997. Not to forget to mention that your career was enriched by some 20 patents.

Coming back to standardization.

All your experiments and projects related to the contactless technology led to a major project, which has fascinated you from the very first day on. That is the 14443 standard series project. You had been mandated by the French National Standardization Organization AFNOR with agreement of your company to take the lead for one of the subgroups of ISO WG8, being dedicated to the 14443 project, i.e. the Task Force 2 (TF2). 25 years ago! It would fill a many-hundreds-pages book to tell the audience, which extremely difficult technical and political obstacles had to be overcome for achieving the 14443 success story. Billions of 14443 products have meanwhile been produced, being used in various applications like payment, transport, passports and ID cards.

Besides all those professional capabilities it is impossible for me to forget notifying the audience of your genius like "hidden" career in one of your major passions, which is music. Your several music related skills have let you concentrating on an instrument, which is difficult to play, namely an accordion. This instrument has ever been your companion, wherever you were employed. But you do not only perfectly play the accordion. You are even a fabulous conductor of a big accordion orchestra, which regularly performs in France, but also in the German town Biberach an der Riss. I myself had so much pleasure to attend twice such events. Really amazing and touching!

Coming to the end of my speech:

On behalf of our Jury I have the honour to hand over to you this year's SIT-SmartCard Workshop Award, with great and appreciating respect to your various and extremely successful efforts in developing and continuously maintaining one of the most important standard being used in hundreds of applications related to personal identification and security, which is ISO/IEC 14443, and your great involvement in chairing the related ISO group Task Force 2 of SC17/WG8.

We all wish you for your future many further years with such involvement, accompanied with happiness, health, luck and many further successes, and not to forget with continued pleasure in your music challenges. Cordially all the best to you for your future!

Michael Hegenbarth,
Bundesdruckerei