Klosterneuburg, November 29, 2012

Thomas A. Henzinger Reappointed As President of IST Austria

Board of Trustees bases decision on achievements of past years and plans for future • 
Dr. Georg Schneider appointed as new Managing Director

The Board of Trustees of the Institute of Science and Technology Austria (IST Austria), in its meeting on Wednesday, November 28, has re-appointed Prof. Thomas A. Henzinger, for a second four-year term, as President of the Institute. The Board also approved the recommendation of Prof. Henzinger to appoint Dr. Georg Schneider as the new Managing Director of IST Austria as of December 1, 2012, replacing Dr. Gerald Murauer, who moved to a position in industry.

Professor Henzinger, accepting to lead the Institute for another term, said: "The reappointment by the Board of Trustees is a great honor for me. The last four years were a tremendous experience. I am very grateful for the confidence vested in me by the board members, and by the scientists who joined IST Austria. I also wish to take this opportunity to thank the staff of the Institute, whose dedication made the developments possible, our supporters in industry, who have contributed so generously, and the political leaders on the federal and provincial levels, who gave IST Austria a long-term horizon for planning. In the coming years I will do my best to validate this trust by firmly establishing IST Austria as a globally renowned center for basic research." Henzinger's second term will start on September 1, 2013.

Dr. Claus J. Raidl, Chair of the Board of Trustees of IST Austria, said: "We are delighted that Prof. Thomas Henzinger has agreed to accept the offer to serve a second term as President of IST Austria. Our decision is based on his achievements in the past four years and his vision for the future. In his first term Henzinger proved to be a successful leader of this rapidly growing Institute, coordinating the interests and efforts of all partners to create an atmosphere of excellence that has become the hallmark of IST Austria. With Thomas Henzinger we are confident that IST Austria will remain on its trajectory to success."
Prof. Haim Harari, Chair of the Executive Committee of IST Austria, summarized the achievements of Henzinger by stating: "In his first four years Thomas Henzinger has succeeded in establishing theoretical and experimental science at IST Austria at a world-class level. In the words of the evaluation committee chaired by Nobel laureate David Baltimore in 2011: ‘Over a period of about two years IST managed to identify and attract an amazing group of faculty members that would be the pride of any top university in the world.’ Henzinger negotiated and reached an agreement on the long-term funding for IST Austria until 2026. This achievement gives IST Austria a bright and secure future. At the same time he has continued to excel in his own field of research."

The new Managing Director, Dr. Georg Schneider, joins the Institute coming from A*Star, Singapore’s strategic umbrella organization for science, technology, and research, where he served as deputy director and CIO of A*Star’s Bioinformatics Institute since 2008. Schneider holds a Master's degree in Business Administration from the Vienna University of Economics and Business and a PhD in Chemistry (Bioinformatics) from the University of Vienna. Claus J. Raidl, Chair of the Board of Trustees of IST Austria, welcomed the new Managing Director: “With Schneider’s remarkable track record in science, business, and administration we are confident that he will contribute much to the future development of IST Austria. Georg Schneider will provide new ideas and approaches based on his multi-faceted, international background and knowledge. I am sure that, together with Thomas Henzinger’s experience, the management of IST Austria will continue to perform excellently.” For more information on Georg Schneider see his CV at www.ist.ac.at/fileadmin/download/CV_Schneider.pdf, portraits can be downloaded at http://alturl.com/bbzwf (1.3 MB)

Schneider will take up his new position on December 1, succeeding Dr. Gerald Murauer, who will join Siemens Austria AG as Head of Corporate Technology for Central Eastern Europe. The Board of Trustees thanked Gerald Murauer for his leading role in developing IST Austria from the very beginning of operations in 2007. Thomas Henzinger: "Gerald Murauer was the first employee of IST Austria and grew the institution to more than 250 employees. The Institute owes him an enormous debt and will always look back with gratitude to the exciting first few years."
Thomas A. Henzinger: Scientific Career

Thomas A. Henzinger was born in Linz on December 8, 1962. He graduated with a DI degree in Computer Science from Johannes Kepler University in Linz. After earning an MS degree in Computer and Information Sciences from the University of Delaware, he received a PhD degree in Computer Science from Stanford University (1991), two of the top departments in the world in this field. He then held the positions of Assistant Professor of Computer Science at Cornell University (1992-95) and, successively, Assistant Professor (1996-97), Associate Professor (1997-98), and Professor (1998-2004) of Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences at the University of California, Berkeley. In 1999 Henzinger was director at the Max-Planck-Institute for Computer Science in Saarbrücken. From 2004 to 2009 Henzinger was Professor for Computer and Communication Sciences at the ETH Lausanne (EPFL). In September 2009 he was appointed as first President of the Institute of Science and Technology Austria.

Thomas Henzinger is an ISI highly cited researcher, a member of Academia Europaea, a member of the German Academy of Sciences (Leopoldina) and the Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW), a Fellow of the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM), and a Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). He holds an honorary doctorate from the University of Grenoble, an Advanced Grant of the European Research Council (ERC), and in 2012 he was awarded the Wittgenstein prize, the most prestigious science award in Austria.

Thomas A. Henzinger: Scientific Achievements

Prof. Henzinger's main field of research is the development of formal methods for program and system verification in Computer Science. This field aims to improve the reliability of software and hardware systems. Henzinger's group forms, together with eight other research groups from five institutions in all of Austria, the Austrian Association for Rigorous Systems Engineering (ARiSE). This team succeeded in 2010 to secure a National Research Network from the Austrian Science Fund (FWF). In recent years Henzinger started a new line of research in computational modeling for biology. Henzinger is a prolific author of research publications and is one of the top-100 most cited authors world-wide in Computer Science.
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IST Austria

The Institute of Science and Technology Austria (IST Austria) is a PhD granting research institution located in Klosterneuburg, 18 km from the center of Vienna. Inaugurated in 2009, the Institute is dedicated to basic research in the natural and mathematical sciences. The Institute employs professors on a tenure-track system, postdoctoral fellows, and doctoral students at its international graduate school. While dedicated to the principle of curiosity-driven research, the Institute owns the rights to all scientific discoveries and is committed to promote their use. The first president of IST Austria is Thomas A. Henzinger, a leading computer scientist and former professor of the University of California, Berkeley, and the EPFL in Lausanne, Switzerland. www.ist.ac.at