VINBOT

PROJECT TITLE:

AUTONOMOUS CLOUD-COMPUTING VINEYARD ROBOT TO OPTIMISE YIELD MANAGEMENT AND WINE QUALITY

PROJECT ACRONYM

VINBOT

CONTRACT NUMBER

605630

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DELIVERABLE 9.4. PRESS RELEASE

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PREPARED BY

OGSZ

REVISED BY

ALL PARTNERS

FOREWORD

VINBOT project started on 1st February 2014 with the aim to help winegrowers and wine producers manage the yield and wine quality by means of a new system based on robotics and cloud-computing technologies.

A press release has been prepared to start disseminating the project and thus creating great expectations on the technology to be developed among all stakeholders. A draft press release was distributed to consortium partners during the Kick-off Meeting held in Barcelona (3rd and 4th February 2014) to be amended during the next days. After including all improvements received from partners, the final one is ready to be sent out.

Since VINBOT has already started and there is not yet any result to focus on, this press release explains the general concept of the technology to be developed and the benefits its use will represent to wine growers and producers.

All consortium members are committed to dissemination activities and will distribute this final press release to its natural contacts after customized it with minor changes to make it catchier to the receiver but keeping the whole content to avoid any disclosure of relevant information.

Ms. Eva ÁLVAREZ. *Project Manager.*
ATEKNEA SOLUTIONS. Barcelona Office.
Víctor Pradera, 45. ES-08940 Cornellà de Llobregat.
T. +34 932049922 // F. +34 932049866
press.barcelona@ateknea.com

TO IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Barcelona, European Union, 3 February 2014

Powerful precision viticulture tool to break traditional yield estimation in vineyards

European vineyards yield management will be optimised to make the most of every harvest

The VinBot technology was presented today in Barcelona to address the need to boost the quality of European wines. European Researchers from Spain and Portugal will work on a three-year research to develop the precision viticulture tool in the face of serious market threats worldwide and structural shortcomings within the sector.

Researchers at *Ateknea Solutions* (Barcelona), the *Instituto Superior de Agronomia/ Universidade de Lisboa* (Lisbon) and *Robotnik* (Valencia) will pool their expertise to achieve data-intensive computer vision algorithms to be offloaded to external internet servers. Then VinBot will be able to extend visual leaf and fruit estimation throughout the entire vineyard, and to centralise yield management by providing wine growers with accurate online yield maps of their vineyards. The research will be supported by the technical companies: Agri-Ciencia Consultores de Engenharia (Lisboa) and Assist Software (Suceava, Romania)

The automatic yield monitoring system VinBot will accurately assess grape yield and relevant phyto-data via a set of sensors, tracking the state and location of the assets, generating maps, capturing sample locations, and sharing such information in a quick, flexible, autonomous and easy-to-use way. By means of this, estimating the amount of leaves and grapes on the vine via computer vision and other sensors, VinBot will provide growers with online vigour and yield maps of their vineyards.

Thousands of wine producers will benefit from quality wine and an easier decision-making process in terms of harvesting and field monitoring. At the vineyard level, growers will be able to automatically assess yield in a more accurate and representative way as compared with the traditional manual, destructive and time-consuming sample-based estimates.

VinBot will represent a powerful precision viticulture tool, which does not exist today: the cloud-computing agricultural robot. Using the VinBot, not only Cantine d'Alfonso del Sordo company (San Severo-Apulia, Italy) will benefit from the coordination and optimisation of yield management strategies, but also Cooperativa Agricola de Granja (Portugal), Orgovanyi Gazdaszovetkezet Szovetkezet (Hungary) and Bodegas Familiares de Rioja PROVIR (Spain) associations throughout their thousands of members' vineyards, based on their collective expertise and commercial objectives. They expect to sell their wine for 8%-20% more over a five year period by employing the VinBot system to accurately estimate yield.