

Paris, January 25, 2011

The Natixis Foundation for Quantitative Research awards its Louis Bachelier prize to Rama Cont

The Louis Bachelier prize of the Natixis foundation for quantitative research was awarded this year to Rama Cont. This biennial prize is sponsored and awarded by the French Academy of Sciences jointly with Société de Mathématiques Appliquées et Industrielles (SMAI). Today was the official celebration under the dome of the Institut de France.

The Louis Bachelier prize of the Natixis foundation rewards a researcher, less than 40 years old, for its contribution to mathematical modeling in the area of finance.

Rama Cont is Research Director at CNRS in the department of probabilities and stochastic modeling of Université Pierre et Marie Curie (Paris VI), that he joined in 2009 after spending four years at Columbia University (New York). His research focuses on modeling extreme risks and systemic risk in financial markets.

"The mathematical and economic modeling of financial risks is a major challenge that involves several areas of mathematical sciences. I am honored to receive this prize and grateful to the Académie des Sciences, the Natixis foundation and SMAI for recognizing this evolving branch of research with this prize". (Rama Cont)

"Rama Cont has an exceptional and unique reputation in the area of quantitative finance ; he is both well known in the academic and professional spheres and is regularly consulted by market authorities, more recently on the complex issue of systemic risks". (Michel Crouhy –Head of Research and Development)

Financial innovation

Quantitative research is the incubator and driver of financial innovation. Its primary focus is on the structuration, valuation of financial products, and the modeling of the associated risks.

Natixis' quantitative research team coordinates and rationalizes quantitative research for all asset classes (equities, fixed income, interest rates, credit and commodities). It sets strategic objectives in the valuation of financial products and the modeling of risks.

Teams of financial engineers in Paris, London and New York support Natixis' quantitative research needs. They develop mathematical and statistical models used for the valuation of financial products. Their contribution enables the Bank to innovate and remain competitive in constantly evolving markets.

A foundation for quantitative research

The Natixis Foundation for Quantitative Research acts as a driving force to encourage and take part in the latest developments undertaken by the best university research teams in the world. The Foundation provides assistance to young talents in their research work through research grants and access to the research teams of Natixis. Every year, it rewards the best Master thesis in quantitative finance and every two years it awards the Louis Bachelier prize to a young researcher for his/her contribution in financial modeling. It is a partner of the Europlace Institute of Finance.

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