Strube signs a partnership agreement with Naïo Technologies and Fraunhofer Institute to develop innovative agricultural robotics solutions

Söllingen, Fürth and Escalquens, 22 April 2020 - German breeder Strube D&S GmbH, European seed referent, Fraunhofer Development Center X-ray Technology EZRT and Naïo Technologies, leader in agricultural robotics solutions, announce a new partnership. Create a sustainable agriculture through innovation is the objective of this cutting-edge partnership.

Together, Strube, Fraunhofer EZRT and Naïo Technologies share the same goal: contribute to more sustainable agricultural practices aligned with the current societal, environmental and economical expectations.

This is the next step for Strube in the announced company strategy called VisionBlue. "Strube, as a responsible supplier of the sugar-beet value chain, has decided to develop progress not only in breeding but also in new methods of beet cultivation. We are convinced that precision farming and robotic will play an important role to face the challenges of tomorrow", emphasizes Martin Reisige, managing director from Strube D&S.

By signing this partnership with Strube, Naïo Technologies shares its expertise in agricultural robotization, serving a new crop, that of sugar beet. "Based on our respected experience gained on vegetable and wine, we are delighted to use now our expertise for new type of cultures. Our cooperation with Strube will result with a robotic mechanical weeding solution for their beets' fields", explains Aymeric Barthes, CEO of Naïo Technologies.

The long-term cooperation between Fraunhofer EZRT and Strube has led to a successful development of a wide variety of systems for sugar beet research. "We are pleased to contribute our extensive competencies in the fields of cognitive sensors and artificial intelligence (AI) to this important and future-oriented research field," explains Prof. Dr. Randolf Hanke, Divisional Director of Fraunhofer EZRT.

This collaboration highlights a common desire to adapt to the new weeding methods. The first outputs of this partnership will be presented in upcoming months.

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ABOUT NAÏO TECHNOLOGIES

Naïo Technologies is a French AgTech company that was founded in 2011 by robotic engineers Aymeric Barthes and Gaëtan Séverac. The company, based in Toulouse, France, designs, manufactures and markets farmbot solutions in

close collaboration with farmers. Their weeding robots respect both the environment and man: they provide a solution to tackle farm worker shortage, reduce the strenuous physical workload and reduce the need of chemicals. To date, nearly 150 Naïo robots tackle weeding issues across the world.
www.naio-technologies.com

ABOUT STRUBE

Strube D&S GmbH is a leading company in the field of plant breeding, and is based in Söllingen, in the northern part of Germany. The company was established in 1877. Nowadays Strube, as part of the Group Deleplanque and with SUET as other shareholder, delivers seed for sugar beet, wheat, sunflowers, vining peas and sweetcorn to more than 30 countries. The company's research and development departments ensure a high-performance and highly innovative range of products. Further information on the company can be found at www.strube.net

ABOUT FRAUNHOFER EZRT

Fraunhofer EZRT is an internationally leading research and development center in the area of non-destructive monitoring along the entire materials value chain of the product life cycle, ranging from raw materials via production towards recycling. Fraunhofer EZRT is defining and advancing the state of the art in this area, especially by applying imaging X-Ray and magnetic resonance techniques as well as optical inspection technologies. The research areas include sensor systems, simulation for data acquisition, image processing for data enhancement and evaluation (metadata acquisition), system development, metrology as well as applications and training. www.iis.fraunhofer.de/ezrt