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**PRESS RELEASE****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Madrid, September 30, 2010

**"Why I am a Scientist" event makes its mark in *Researchers' Night***

*Institute IMDEA Networks has thrown its support behind Researchers' Night, held in different European Union cities to bring science to the people.*

On September 24 *Researchers' Night* was held for the sixth consecutive year, with a series of activities designed to make the public aware of the advances made in different scientific fields. Two hundred events took place in the most important European cities, with a total budget of 3.5 million Euros. 18 activities were held in 13 different venues in Madrid over the six hours that the scientific late-nighter lasted.

The IMDEA Institute (Madrid Institute for Advanced Studies) played an active part in this year's program by organizing the "Why I am a Scientist" event, a roundtable debate open to the public in which directors of the eight IMDEA institutions discussed the reasons why they chose to work in science with the audience. Thanks to the presence of speakers specialized in different areas, from water, food, social sciences and materials to networks, nanoscience and energy, the scientific world was spotlighted as a fascinating industry, free from stereotyping and able to make a huge impact on society.

Particular mention should be made of the intervention by Dr. Albert Banchs, Deputy Director of Institute IMDEA Networks and a leading European figure in the field of new technologies. Dr. Banchs highlighted the importance of the research carried out by IMDEA Networks in the area of Information Technology, and in particular the study of network technologies that will be used to develop the Future Wireless Internet, a key factor for change in the Spanish economic model.

Attendance was high and the "Why I am a Scientist" debate was received enthusiastically. This underlines the interest that the scientific community inspires in general and how aware the public increasingly is of the way that research impacts daily life. The success of each session in this sense has provided a high benchmark for the organization of activities for the next *Researchers' Night*.



*Science was let loose on the street in the sixth edition of Researchers' Night.*



*The "Why I am a Scientist" roundtable debate attracted a large public. The event was broadcast live on [www.madrimasd.org](http://www.madrimasd.org)*



*Since 2005, the number of European countries taking part in the most scientific night of the year has doubled.*

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## ABOUT INSTITUTE IMDEA NETWORKS

Institute IMDEA Networks is an international research institute supported by the Regional Government of Madrid and the European Union. The Institute brings together distinguished and young scientific researchers to develop cutting-edge science and technology in the field of networking. In order to ensure a truly international perspective, the Institute's working language is English. Promoting interdisciplinary collaboration, the Madrid-based Institute works in partnership with leading businesses and scientists from around the globe. By generating new knowledge and understanding through its activities, the Institute supports the continued development of Madrid and Spain as a centre for international scientific and technological research.

[www.networks.imdea.org](http://www.networks.imdea.org)

### CONTACT INFORMATION – FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY

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