

## **A French co-founder of Visisimo**

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### **A young French researcher and a team from CMU create a world leader for innovation and performance in enterprise search.**

#### **Synopsis**

When he came to Pittsburgh as a young researcher to work with Carnegie Mellon University professor Raul Valdes-Perez, Jérôme Presenti was dreaming of California. But Pittsburgh is an expert at growing talent. Vivisimo, a corporation Jerome co-founded, is now a world leader for innovation and performance in enterprise search. The company, which has won repeated awards, has recently been featured as one of the “Top 100 Companies that Matter” by KM World Magazine, and exemplifies the efficiency of Pittsburgh’s technology transfer mechanisms. Over one hundred highly-paid jobs so far have been contributed to the region’s economic growth by Vivisimo.

#### **Overview**

Co-founded in 2000 by three Carnegie Mellon researchers, Raul Valdes-Perez, Jérôme Presenti and Chris Palmer, Vivisimo offers a technological platform that solves the complex issue of information overload in enterprise search. The system offers a structured access to relevant information, thus increasing productivity and efficiency in searches. Velocity, Vivisimo’s flagship product for enterprise search, has been recognized « Best Enterprise Search Engine » by the respected InfoWorld magazine.

Based in Pittsburgh, with offices in Paris and London, and prestigious clients around the globe, Vivisimo now employs over a hundred, highly-qualified employees of 11 different nationalities. Its steady growth exemplifies the efficiency of the region’s infrastructure in capturing and getting to market the innovative technology generated through Pittsburgh’s wealth of university laboratories and research centers.

The research of Dr.Valdes-Perez’s team at Carnegie Mellon was initially funded by the National Science Foundation as part of the SBIR program [Small Business Innovation Research Grants]. These grants, renewed periodically upon performance reviews, enabled the development of the technology, the spinoff out of the university, and helped to assess commercial sustainability. Innovation Works, the local branch of the Benjamin Franklin Technology Partnership, a Pennsylvanian organization, then stepped in. This agency fuels the technology economy in Southwestern PA through direct investments and business expertise.

Vivisimo : <http://vivisimo.com>

Jérôme Presenti : <http://vivisimo.com/about/directors>

Innovation Works : <http://www.innovationworks.org>