

Strategy

Imagining the future

With Sophie Proust, Chief Technology Officer, Atos



You were appointed Atos CTO in January 2019. What role does technology play in Atos's growth strategy?

Digital is transforming our day-to-day lives. With the increasing amount of data available, the business models of our clients are facing major disruption. Technology is enabling these huge changes, and Atos is investing significantly (€235M in 2019) in Research & Development (R&D) and innovation.

Our technological expertise and our capacity for innovation are major drivers of client satisfaction and business growth.

How can new technologies help address the challenges of sustainability in the IT world?

Our *raison d'être* commits Atos to designing a more sustainable digital future. Just like security, end-to-end sustainability is an imperative that permeates all our R&D activities.

For example, Atos is the European leader in high performance computing. As we advance toward exascale, supercomputing without doubt will consume more energy. We are focused on increasing energy efficiency as much as on increasing computing performance. Thanks to innovations such as our patented Enhanced Direct Liquid Cooling system, which uses warm water rather than air for cooling, our supercomputers (23 Atos systems are in the Green500 list) are some of the most energy efficient supercomputers in the world – as well as some of the most powerful.

How are these innovations helping Atos's customers respond to their own CSR challenges?

Atos is mobilizing its technological expertise and its CSR values to fight Covid-19. At this challenging time, Atos provides solutions and computing power to help contain the spread of the virus, support the scientific community, accelerate vaccine research and ensure business continuity for critical activities. For example, Atos has designed EpiSYS, an Epidemic Management System (EMS) which helps healthcare professionals to control the spread of the virus and manage the epidemic. Also, our supercomputers are at work around the world – whether they are used for simulation to build predictive models, analyze the progress of the disease or develop new treatments.

We have a client-centric approach. We believe above all in technology that is usable – in technology that makes a difference. In today's world, nowhere is it more important to make a difference than in the area of sustainability. For example, our supercomputers are enhancing the ability of scientific institutions to model climate change and sequence human genomes. The innovations we produce are also meeting growing demand from our clients for IT for Green offerings, such as precision farming and earth observation services.

What are the main strengths of R&D at Atos?

Thanks to our size, we are in a real position to make a real difference. We have around 4,500 active patents and produce more than 100 patents each year. We have a network of 14 R&D centers around the world. Another lab will open in France in 2020, focusing on artificial intelligence. We are at the center of a large and growing network of partnerships, from major technology providers to top universities and promising startups.

However, there is much more to R&D at Atos than just our size. It is above all the quality of our people and the values that we share that gives Atos such a powerful culture of innovation. Across the 160 members of our Scientific Community and the more than 2,200 people in our Expert Community, we all believe in driving effective change where it matters most. As technology reaches a new tipping point, it is more important than ever to adopt a human-centric, responsible approach to innovation. This is what makes Atos unique.