

# **Optimal Approach for Energy Efficiency in Aquatic Locomotion**

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**LAMPETRA** (Life-like Artefacts for Motor-Postural Experiments and Development of new Control Technologies inspired by Rapid Animal locomotion), FP7, ICT-2007.8.3 (Bio-ICT convergence), GA No. 216100

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# **Bioinspired underwater propulsion**

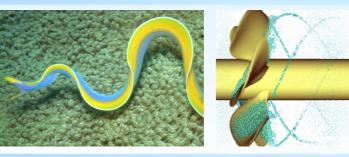
- fish-like swimming dynamics: no propellers, reduced drag and energy dissipation by complex fluid phenomena (e.g. cavitation)
- undulatory swimming: trade-off between cruising and maneuvering performance (backward motion allowed); skin friction contained by relatively low swimming speed

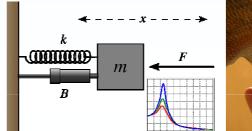
# Energy saving by optimal use/control of inertia actions

- suitable design of the swimming structure so as to exploit passive dynamics (proper modes);
- suitable design of the **structure-environment** interface for an efficient coupling
- optimal adaptive motion by implementing a bioinspired ICT control strategy (backward actuation wave based on proprioceptive sensors)

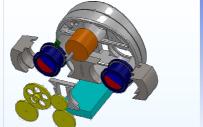
### Compliant, high-efficiency actuation

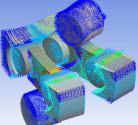
- **muscle-like**, force-controlled novel actuators (patented technology) fitting the system compliance
- high back-drivability
- efficiency: expected more than 50% (the autonomous artefact can swim for several kilometers by consuming about 35 kJ)











#### **General applications**

Apart the main goals of the Lampetra Project (neuroscientific studies related to goal-directed locomotion, new solutions for high-performance artificial locomotion, in terms of fast-response, adaptability, reliability, energy efficiency, and control) and application areas such as environmental exploration, interesting **general applications** of the proposed technology include:

- user-friendly, ergonomic and safe interfaces in "soft robotics" (e.g.: new human-machine interfaces, wearable systems, etc...)
- clean and energy efficient substitute for power pneumatics and hydraulics
- · industrial manipulators, compliant and safe for the operator

#### References

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- [2] A. Ijspeert, A. Crespi, D. Ryczko, and J.-M. Cabelguen: "From swimming to walking with a salamander robot driven by a spinal cord model", Science No. 315(5817), pp.1416-1420, 2007.
- [3] Patent: "Magnetic actuator for adaptive actuation", Patent no. Fl2008A000150 (Italy; international extension foreseen).











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