Overview
The Science and Technology in Archaeology Research Center (STARC) is devoted to the development, introduction, and use of advanced science and technologies in Archaeology and Cultural Heritage. Its research activities have a strong multi-disciplinary approach, through collaboration agreements and joint activities with leading institutions in the region, and synergies with other Centers of the Cyprus Institute (CY), towards the enhancement of knowledge regarding the Cultural Heritage (CH) of the region, through new ways of reasoning with information technologies, natural and material sciences.
Although the Center has not been formally launched, STARC is actively involved in various research activities.

Research
The research agenda of STARC will evolve around four themes, which derive from a use-inspired basic research approach:

- Natural and Material Sciences applied to Archaeology and Cultural Heritage (CH);
- Digital Heritage (DHi), Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), digital documentation and semantics, scientific visualization and virtual reality methods;
- Diagnostics for CH conservation, such as chemical and physical analyses for the preservation of heritage items;
- Underwater archaeology technology.

STARC is actively involved in the coordination and participation of various European research projects and initiatives, some of which are listed below:

Project Name: Making local and regional content accessible through the European Digital Library
- Acronym: EDLocal
- Funding scheme: eContentplus
- Funding period: 3 years
- Starting date: June 2008
- Coordinator: Sogn-og-Fjordane (NO) and MDR partners (UK)
- Role of STARC: regional content coordinator

Synopsis
EDLocal is a proposal that aims to establish a Best Practice Network to improve the interoperability of the digital content held by regional and local institutions, and to make it accessible through the European Digital Library (EDL).

Project Name: Access to cultural heritage networks across Europe
- Acronym: ATHENA
- Funding scheme: eContentplus
- Funding period: 2 years
- Starting date: October 2008
- Coordinator: Minister per i Beni e le Attitudi Culturali (IT)
- Role of STARC: content provider

Synopsis
ATHENA has been developed to specifically tackle the gap in the existing content provision to the European Digital Library (Europen).

Project Name: Science and Technology for Archaeology and Cultural Heritage in the Eastern Mediterranean
- Acronym: STACHEM
- Funding scheme: Capacities: research infrastructures
- Funding period: 18 months
- Starting date: November 2008
- Coordinator: CREF-CyI (CY)
- Role of STARC: project coordination, management, dissemination and outreach

Synopsis
STACHEM will contribute in developing a regional strategic plan for research infrastructures devoted to archaeological sciences and digital heritage in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Project Name: Threshold of Integration in Eastern Mediterranean
- Acronym: TIEM
- Funding Scheme: FP7-IST
- Funding period: 48 months
- Starting date: December 2008
- Coordinator: University of Brighton (UK)
- Role of STARC: content provider

Synopsis
TIEM is a grant which will be used to carry out an extensive survey of Medieval Architecture in Cyprus and various Greek islands, in conjunction to documenting it in the light of written sources of the same period.

Project Name: 3D Collection Formation
- Acronym: 3D-CoForm
- Funding Scheme: FP7-IST
- Funding period: 48 months
- Starting date: December 2008
- Coordinator: University of Brighton (UK)
- Role of STARC: coordination of dissemination and training regional content provider

Synopsis
3D-COFORM will advance the state-of-the-art in 3D digitisation and make 3D documentation an everyday practical choice for digital documentation campaigns in the Cultural Heritage sector.

STARC Scientific Advisory Committee
A Scientific Advisory Committee has been formed to provide scientific supervision and guidance to the Center. The leadership of the Committee is:

Demetrios Michaelides
Professor
Archaeological Research Unit, Department of History and Archaeology, University of Cyprus
Jean-Pierre Mohen
Director
Quai Branly Museum
Heather N. Lechtmann
Professor
Head of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology’s Program in Archaeology and Archaeological Science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Partnerships
STARC has a number of collaborations with national and international research, administrative and public institutions.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed with the Centre de Recherche et de Restauration des Musées de France (C2RMF) for scientific and educational collaboration, particularly in the field of material sciences applied to Cultural Heritage and Archeometallurgy.

Collaboration has been established with the Archaeological Research Unit (ARU) of the University of Cyprus. Professor Demetrios Michaelides, Head of the ARU, is also a member of the STARC Interim Governing Board.

Collaboration with the Italian Ministry of Culture in the field of digital libraries has started with an exchange of letters stating a mutual declaration of interest. This partnership has led to the invitation to join an EU proposal that has been approved by the European Commission.

Outreach activities
STARC recognizes the need to disseminate its scientific results to various communities of use and, as such, will promote the dissemination of its results for the creation of a modern knowledge – based society through various outreach activities.

Our People
STARC aims to create an interdisciplinary research environment, based on the principles of knowledge exchange between disciplines. As such, its international team benefits from the expertise of researchers in social sciences and humanities, natural and material sciences and computer sciences.

Our current team is composed of:

Prof. Franco Niccolucci
Professor, Chair of the European Government Board
Semantics, digital libraries, 3D visualization

Prof. Loukas Kallopanis
Professor
Virtual environments, digital visualization, modelisation, energy systems simulation

Dr. Sotir Hermon
Research Coordinator
Digital Heritage, knowledge management and transfer, cognitive technologies

Dr. Kiril Lonetz
Research Coordinator
Human bioarchaeology, archaeological sciences, archaeometry

Dr. Marinos Ioannides
Research Scientist
Computer sciences, photogrammetry, 3D modelling

Denis Pitzalis
Researcher in Archaeological Science
Computer sciences applied to Cultural Heritage, digital imaging, 3D, semantics, digital libraries

Dr. Nikolas Babitsis
Marie-Curie Research Fellow
Byzantine and medieval architecture and archaeology.