

Press release



La Chaire Photonique est cofinancée par l'Union européenne.
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Creation of CentraleSupélec Photonics Chair

A unique project in France for the promotion and valorisation of Light

April 27, 2017, Metz | Aware that the exploitation of light is both a societal stake and a vector of economic development, CentraleSupélec, a major engineering school, announces the creation of the Photonics Chair on its Metz Campus. The Chair is unique in France by its structuring project which altogether aims to develop scientific excellence in the optical processing of information, to develop innovation and technology transfer to companies, and to develop training and Education on the importance of light and optical technologies. The Photonics Chair is created at the initiative of CentraleSupélec, Supélec Foundation, AIRBUS group GDI Simulation, the French State, Europe (FEDER), the Grand-Est Region, the Moselle Department and Metz.

Presentation of the Chair

Photonics, which combines science and technology that exploit light and optical technologies, is one of Europe's five key technologies and reflects an economic reality of more than 50,000 direct jobs in nearly 750 companies in France. Understanding and developing photonics also means noticing the importance that artists, writers and philosophers have given to light, and better grasping the centrality that it occupies at the frontier of several scientific disciplines such as mathematics, physics, biology or chemistry. Photonics is also widely recognized as one of the key technological challenges facing our society within the next decade.

With the creation of the Photonics Chair, CentraleSupélec, a major engineering school, and Supélec Foundation which is recognized as a public utility, are associating with a major private partner, Airbus group GDI Simulation and several public partners - the French State, Europe (FEDER), the Grand-Est Region, the Moselle Department and Metz Metropolis - in order to be part of this dynamic to encourage and enhance photonics development. This dynamic reinforces the steps taken by CentraleSupélec and Supélec Foundation as to promote the importance of Light in the context of 2015, the International Year of Light, and currently the national committee "Lumière et Société".

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This Photonics Chair, established for an initial period of four years, is a structuring project which is unique in France through its triple mission:

- develop scientific excellence in research on innovative solutions for the optical processing of information, thus preparing the revolution of information systems that will use the photon more than the electron;
- create favorable conditions for innovation and the transfer of knowledge and know-how in photonics to companies;
- develop the training of engineers and Master students in photonics and increase the general public awareness for the importance of Light.

The Photonics Chair is also part of a process to build a permanent network of academic and industry partners sharing a common vision on the importance of photonics.

www.chairephotonique.fr

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ABOUT CENTRALESUPELEC / CentraleSupélec, a Public Institution of a scientific, cultural and professional nature, was created by the merging of Ecole Centrale Paris and Supélec in January 2015.

Since 2009, the two Schools have steadily strengthened their partnership and collaboration in order to cover all their activities (initial training, research and further training) and to assert their shared values of excellence, innovation, entrepreneurship, international openness and leadership.

Today, CentraleSupélec consists of 4 campuses in France. It has 4,700 students, 3,500 being engineering students, and includes 16 laboratories or research teams. As an international School, CentraleSupélec has offices in China, India and Morocco.

CentraleSupélec is a reference centre in the field of engineering sciences and systems and a leading School in higher education and research, ranked among the best institutions in the world. CentraleSupélec is a founding member of Paris-Saclay University and chairs Ecole Centrale Group.

www.centralesupelec.fr