



Press release
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Institut Mines-Télécom and the Fondation Mines-Télécom partner with Bpifrance and Revital'Emploi to create the “Industries & Energy 4.0” fund

Institut Mines-Télécom (IMT) and the Fondation Mines-Télécom have launched another fund dedicated to the sciences of energy, materials and processes. It will grant interest-free loans to the most promising start-ups developing innovative industrial projects. The fund set up in partnership with Bpifrance and Revital'Emploi and managed by Initiative Grandes Ecoles & Universités (IGEUE) is endowed with €275,000.

Following up on the success of the “IMT Digital” fund which has invested €4M since its creation in 2012, IMT and the Fondation Mines-Télécom have duplicated this approach with patronage from BNP Paribas, Orange, Nokia, Accenture, Airbus Group, Dassault Systèmes and Sopra Steria. The stakeholders have contributed €275,000 to the “Industries & Energy 4.0” fund, broken down as follows: €120,000 for Bpifrance, €60,000 for Revital'Emploi and €95,000 for IMT and the Fondation Mines-Télécom.

The fund is under the aegis of the Initiative Grandes Ecoles & Universités association, a member of the Initiative France network. Its aim is to answer the financial needs of start-ups with projects, granting loans of €10,000 to €60,000 to their founders, without interest or the need for a guarantor. This loan scheme is based on a virtuous circle: reimbursement of the loans helps to finance new innovative businesses.

Interest-free loans, a scheme that values innovation

The start-ups applying for interest-free loans all come from the incubators of the IMT schools. These loans give a certain legitimacy to the projects and have a leveraging effect - on average, by a factor of 6 - on their seed funding, fitting in perfectly within the financing journey of the young innovative businesses from the IMT schools' incubators.

The applicants for interest-free loans will be selected by a committee of experts from partner businesses of the Fondation Mines-Télécom, presided by Jean-Yves Gilet, former executive director for “Intermediate and Large Corporations” at Bpifrance.

“I am proud to head the approvals committee for this new fund. I welcome this initiative from IMT and the Fondation Mines-Télécom, which supports the success of the start-ups to be financed. Through the Fondation Mines-Télécom, IMT is reasserting its contribution to the economic and industrial development of France”, highlights Jean-Yves Gilet.



Over the years, the interest-free loans of the Fondation Mines-Télécom have demonstrated their efficiency, with a survival rate after three years exceeding 90% among the hundred or so start-ups that have been supported, and with over half of them developing internationally.

About the Fondation Mines-Télécom www.fondation-mines-telecom.org

The Fondation Mines-Télécom is recognized as being of public interest and supports the development of IMT and its eight schools in their training, research and innovation activities. It groups together over 90 corporate partners and 3,000 private donors who are committed to supporting practical projects with high technological, industrial and societal impacts within the fields of digital technologies, energy and the industry of the future, as well as solidarity with students. Thanks to the support of its founding partners (BNP Paribas, Nokia and Orange), alumni and students' parents, the Fondation Mines-Télécom also finances some ten or so programs in the fields of education (scholarships, open-innovation program for students, MOOCs), research (theses, awards of excellence, Franco-German Academy and teaching and research chairs), innovation (interest-free loans for start-ups and incubation support) and forward studies (publications), as well as actions in support of the development of IMT schools (scholarships, social awareness, state-of-the-art equipment, international mobility support).

About IMT www.imt.fr

Institut Mines-Télécom is a public higher education and research institution under the aegis of the French Ministry for the Economy, Industry and Digital Affairs, which groups together 8 graduate schools, 2 subsidiaries and a network of strategic and affiliated partners. Its activities in the fields of engineering sciences and digital technology support the education of engineers and managers, partnership-based research, innovation and economic development. Always attentive to the economic world, IMT combines strong academic and scientific legitimacy, close corporate relations and strategic positioning in the key transformations of the 21st century: digital technology, industry, energy and ecology, and education. IMT is a founding member of the Alliance for the Industry of the Future and co-founder of the Franco-German Academy for the Industry of the Future with Technische Universität München (TUM). It is recognized by 2 Carnot Institute accreditations for the quality of its partner-based research. Each year, IMT trains over 1,200 students, enters into nearly 70 million research contracts, and hosts some 100 start-ups in its incubators.

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