



Press release
June 10th 2021

Airbus and ArianeGroup join the industrial “Partners Club” of the German-French Academy for Industry of the Future.

The signing of the partnership was finalized during a ceremony chaired by Bruno Le Maire, French Minister of the Economy, Finance and the Recovery, on June 10, 2021.

The German-French Academy for the Industry of the Future, co-founded by Institut Mines-Télécom (IMT) and the Technical University of Munich (TUM), has created an innovative cooperation model aimed at fostering innovation and digital transformation. With support from Fondation Mines-Télécom, it founded the industrial “Partners Club”, through which major stakeholders gain access to an ecosystem pursuing excellence in research. The aerospace and aeronautics sectors are currently tackling major technological challenges related artificial to intelligence, cybersecurity, advanced manufacturing, and hydrogen propulsion systems. In this context, Airbus and ArianeGroup, the two European leaders in these fields, recently became the first official members of the Academy’s Partners Club, with the aim of sharpening their forward-looking strategies.

Founded on the experience and expertise of Fondation Mines-Télécom, the Partners Club was designed to facilitate interactions and technology transfer between the industrial and academic worlds. From the Academy’s perspective, the entry of Airbus and ArianeGroup in the club opens new horizons for future research and training initiatives, while also developing a pool of French and German experts in Industry 4.0. The Academy currently brings together 150 researchers from both countries.

Digital transformation, central to industrial strategies

The manufacturers’ teams, which are fully immersed in this digital transformation, will work together with experts in the field from IMT and TUM. They will therefore gain exclusive access to the Academy’s research and the opportunity to attend events where they will meet stakeholders who are shaping the industry of the future. They will also be able to participate in “Innovation Expeditions”.

Critical sectors for European sovereignty

Airbus and ArianeGroup are constantly improving quality and safety standards in their fields, while integrating the latest innovations and anticipating the next technological breakthroughs. The Academy, in keeping with its role of sharing new best practices, will share its knowledge with its industrial partners. This will enable them to integrate and adapt these concepts to the field, making them more competitive, resilient and sustainable, which are all crucial issues today.

Cooperation between these two major European groups and the Academy will also strengthen ties between France and Germany as they work together on issues of industrial and digital sovereignty. The Franco-German axis is indeed a driving force in supporting innovation that will increase technological expertise in Europe.

Bruno Le Maire, French Minister of the Economy, Finance and the Recovery: *"I am delighted that two major European companies in the aeronautics and space sectors have joined the partners club established by the German-French Academy for the Industry of the Future. ArianeGroup and Airbus will benefit from an ecosystem of excellence in research and innovation."*

Odile Gauthier, Executive Director of Institut Mines-Télécom: *"One of the global challenges that extends beyond our borders is that of redeveloping French and European companies that have been hard-hit by COVID-19. I am therefore convinced that we must strengthen cooperation between France and Germany, with the aim of implementing new and concrete actions. In this respect, the signing of the partnership with two major industrial groups sends a strong message."*

"Fondation Mines-Télécom is very proud to support the German-French Academy, which is a strategic project for IMT. Together we can create a powerful tool to improve the competitiveness of companies and their partners. The role of Fondation Mines-Télécom is to form partnerships such as this between the academic and industrial worlds. The open and flexible framework created by the sponsorship system is a major advantage in these collaborative initiatives," says Claude Imauven, President of Fondation Mines Telecom.

"Digital transformation, artificial intelligence, and cybersecurity are all central to the industrial technology and processes of the future that are shaping the development of Airbus. Given our Group's deep roots in Franco-German cooperation, we are proud to become members of the German-French Academy's Partners Club, and to join forces with engineers from the industrial world, research professors, and students from IMT and TUM, which are among Europe's most prestigious schools and universities." -Sabine Klauke, Head of Engineering at Airbus Defence and Space.

"ArianeGroup is the fruit of a joint Franco-German venture in 2015 for Ariane 6, which sought to guarantee Europe's sovereign access to space. It is therefore both an obvious choice and source of pride to have our most innovative teams participate in the German-French Academy. With the support of our academic partners, we will be inspired to encourage and back new joint ventures that will promote Europe's access to space. These new ventures promise to be increasingly innovative, competitive, and respectful of the environment, for the benefit of all," says André Hubert-Roussel, CEO of ArianeGroup



About Institut Mines-Télécom www.imt.fr/en

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 German-French Academy for the Industry of the Future with Technical University of Munich (TUM). It is recognized by 2 Carnot Institute accreditations for the quality of its partner-based research. Each year, IMT trains over 13,000 students, enters into nearly 70 million research contracts, and hosts some 100 start-ups in its incubators.

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 Airbus www.airbus.com

Airbus pioneers sustainable aerospace for a safe and united world. The Company constantly innovates to provide efficient and technologically-advanced solutions in aerospace, defence, and connected services. In commercial aircraft, Airbus offers modern and fuel-efficient airliners and associated services. Airbus is also a European leader in defence and security and one of the world's leading space

businesses. In helicopters, Airbus provides the most efficient civil and military rotorcraft solutions and services worldwide.

About ArianeGroup www.ariane.group/en/

ArianeGroup is lead contractor for Europe's Ariane 5 and Ariane 6 launcher families, responsible for both design and the entire production chain, up to and including marketing by its Arianespace subsidiary, as well as for the missiles of the French oceanic deterrent force. The joint venture, equally owned by Airbus and Safran, employs approximately 7600 highly qualified staff in France and Germany. ArianeGroup develops and supplies innovative and competitive solutions for civil and military space launchers, with expertise in all aspects of state-of-the-art propulsion technologies. ArianeGroup and its subsidiaries enjoy a global reputation as specialists in the field of equipment and propulsion for space applications, while their expertise also benefits other industrial sectors. The Group revenues amounted to 2.7 billion euros in 2020.

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