

MEDIA RELEASE

INAUGURAL JOINT AUST-FRA INNOVATION WORKSHOP

PARIS 19 October 2018: The future of industry innovation has been the spotlight this week with some of the best and brightest French and Australian research minds meeting in Paris to discuss everything from digital technology to the industry 4.0 revolution.

Flinders University, a major Australian university in Adelaide, and CentraleSupélec, a major French Graduate School of Engineering, co-chaired a workshop titled 'First Australo-French Meetings on Innovation for Industry of the Future'.

The French and Australian institutions are jointly creating a new community for Innovation linked with industry and corporate partners.

The workshop saw researchers from Flinders' College of Science & Engineering, Australian Industrial Transformation Institute, and New Venture Institute lead an Australian delegation with University of Queensland, University of Adelaide and University of Technology Sydney, in collaboration with the French institutions ENSTA-PT and Polytechnique, lead by CentraleSupélec,

Together they tackled the crucial topic of industry for the future and its relationship to innovation with leading French defence-related firms such as Naval Group, Dassault Systèmes and Thalès, plus start-ups, incubators, and accelerators.

'The industry 4.0 revolution is underway and innovation is the main driver for the renewal of industry in the 21st century, particularly manufacturing and production. Data and Artificial Intelligence are re-inventing design and production chains and this requires a rethink about related competencies and jobs,' the Director of Flinders University's Australian Industrial Transformation Institute Professor John Spoehr says.

'The working group proposed clear objectives and a short-to-middle-term roadmap including joint projects and events, faculty and student exchanges, internships and PhD programs, start-up seeds and co-incubation to ensure we developing the necessary skills and applying them to best advantage,' Professor Spoehr says.

Marc Zolver, vice-president for International Affairs at CentraleSupélec, says the workshop is the genesis of a research, industry and community 'open innovation' framework, where ideas and innovations will be exchanged in a swift and agile process benefiting for both big and small organizations.

'Discussions focused on research aspects of Innovation in and for Industry and the skills and competencies needed, taking into account Australian and French cultures' says CentraleSupélec Professor of Design Engineering Bernard Yannou.

'Industry is experiencing a seismic transformation with more innovative and digital design and lean value-oriented processes. Our framework aims to create an added-value cooperation attracting more partners to exchange ideas and expertise and find solutions to tackle the challenges ahead,' he says.

The initiative was a successful in receiving funding from The Australian-French Association for Research and Innovation (AFRAN) and the French embassy in Australia. <https://www.afran.org.au/event-info/first-austral-french-meetings-on-innovation-for-industry-of-the-future>

Media contacts

Flinders University: Karen Ashford, Director of Media and Communications
E: karen.ashford@flinders.edu.au T: +61 8 8201 2092 M: +61 427 398 713
CentraleSupélec: Laurence Wendling, External communications manager
E: Laurence.wendling@centralesupelec.fr T : +33 175 31 61 15