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Press release

## > Patrick Drahi donates 10 million euros to the Institut Mines-Télécom's graduate schools to develop online courses

A firm believer in the high-quality training available to French engineers and their internationally renowned expertise in the field of digital engineering, Patrick Drahi is increasing his support of France's Télécom graduate schools by helping them to create a comprehensive range of Massive Online Open Courses (MOOCs). Patrick Drahi becomes the schools' first private sponsor following his decision to donate 10 million euros to the Institut Mines-Télécom's Fondation Télécom.

Initial and continuing education students from around the world will be able to study at this 'virtual graduate school', which will offer a range of online courses via an open platform. MOOCs are tools that will help to transform higher education institutions as part of the digital revolution. They improve the quality of teaching by adapting it to the expectations of 21<sup>st</sup> century students and by making it available around the world.

Thanks to Patrick Drahi's donation, the Télécom graduate schools will pioneer the use of MOOCs by using them to share their best teaching with thousands of students worldwide.

The MOOCs offered will focus primarily on fields in which France enjoys an international reputation for expertise, such as cybersecurity, augmented reality and digital innovation.

They will also promote France's unique and renowned approach to digital technologies by combining mathematics, electronics, IT, networks, signal processing, economics and social science.

Patrick Drahi's long-standing support of French Télécom graduate schools has enabled them to improve significantly the quality and accessibility of their courses for a number of years.

'Through hard work and merit, I was given the opportunity to study excellent courses at the Télécom ParisTech graduate school and the École Polytechnique. By making this donation, I want to help these French graduate schools to remain global pioneers in their respective fields, such as digital technologies and innovation in the case of Télécom ParisTech,' he explains.

Yves Poilane, director of Télécom ParisTech, an Institut Mines-Télécom graduate school, added, 'Patrick Drahi's support of our Télécom graduate schools has been made possible by the personal involvement of Guy Roussel, chair of the Fondation Télécom, for several years now. His funding has enabled us to attract new talent, innovators and entrepreneurs from around the world. The Télécom graduate schools aim to lead the way in a key area of the Institut Mines-Télécom's strategy, which is also supported by the Fondation Télécom's new Ambition 2020 campaign.'

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**About the Fondation Télécom** [www.fondation-telecom.org](http://www.fondation-telecom.org)

The Fondation Télécom is a foundation for businesses wishing to work alongside the schools of the Institut Mines-Télécom in order to take up the new industrial, economic and societal challenges of the Digital Society. It supports and finances programs and projects initiated in conjunction with its partners (including the Founding partners, Alcatel Lucent, BNP Paribas, France Télécom-Orange, Google and SFR) in the areas of training, research, innovation and forward planning.

**About the Institut Mines-Télécom** [www.mines-telecom.fr](http://www.mines-telecom.fr)

The Institut Mines-Télécom is a public establishment dedicated to higher education, research and innovation in the engineering and digital fields. It is made up of 10 Mines and Télécom "grandes écoles", under the aegis of the Minister for Productivity.

There are 2 subsidiary schools and 2 strategic partners and a network of 11 partner schools.

The Institut Mines-Télécom is nationally and internationally renowned for the high standard of its courses for engineers, managers and PhD students, and its research and innovation activities.

The Institut Mines-Télécom is a member of the Allistene, Aviesan and Athena national alliances for research planning. It maintains close relationships with the business world and has two Instituts Carnot. Every year, some one hundred start-up businesses are born.