



Press release

June 4th 2020

Institut Mines-Telecom is a founding member of GAIA-X, the European cloud initiative for data sovereignty and interoperability

Bruno Lemaire, Minister of Economy and Finance and Peter Altmaier, Federal Minister of Economy and Energy in Germany, unveiled the list of founding members.

Institut Mines-Telecom is a founding member of the Franco-German GAIA-X initiative, which lays the foundations for a European cloud for data sovereignty and interoperability. The IMT community of faculty members will provide its expertise in AI, big data and cybersecurity within this new structure. IMT will be working alongside various stakeholders: cloud providers, IT service companies, SMEs, industry and sector organizations. As an academic partner involved in the economic sphere, IMT will co-construct new ethical and technical standards for data sharing between actors.

Creating a framework of trust

Data and meta data are a key intangible asset in economies and in strategic relationships between companies and countries, for example with the US CLOUD Act. At the instigation of the French and German governments, the partners took up the issue by creating GAIA-X. The objective is to set up common standards (legal and technical) and publish good conduct on data and the way it is shared in an approach that reflects European values.

IMT, through its Teralab platform, has been associated with the beginnings of GAIA-X in line with the agreement signed in May 2019 with the International Data Spaces Association (IDSA), of which it has become the French Hub.

Odile Gauthier, Director General of IMT says: *“The use of data is a strategic economic and social issue in a European approach such as the GDPR. IMT is an academic player committed to the economic world and we support companies in their digital transformation. Today, as the French IDSA Hub, we bring together stakeholders in the French research and economic communities to contribute to defining data sharing standards. Thus, our commitment to GAIA-X is an extension of our involvement in these issues.”*

Promoting multi-source data

The availability of high-quality, reliable data through interoperable clouds is a fundamental prerequisite both for companies developing new products or services and for research organizations. Data is only useful if it is shared and cross-referenced with other sources to provide greater context and allow more comprehensive analysis. It is therefore necessary to make this connection according to a quality standard: data reliability, security, transparency, which will be defined by GAIA-X, the various private or public clouds where the data sets are stored.

GAIA-X will also allow companies, and in particular SMEs, to manage their contractual relationship with their cloud solution providers whose general conditions may be too restrictive on data portability. For example, the consortium is looking at the hidden cost when a company wants to remove its data from a service provider.

Identify uses for cloud interoperability

The success of the GAIA-X initiative depends very much on user demand. Based on cases from many economic and public sector fields, representatives from nearly 300 companies and organizations have designed a technical architecture that guarantees secure data exchange and can serve as the basis for a complete data management ecosystem. IMT has worked on several cases for use, notably applied to aeronautics.

Cases of data sharing in aeronautics

Aircraft sensors provide large amounts of data for maintenance, design of future aircraft and environmental impact. To calculate environmental impact more precisely, additional information on the materials chosen, the suppliers who manufacture them and their supply chain must be included.

As mobility today is increasingly complex, manufacturers want to share their knowledge with other transport sectors worldwide. For each data silo, however, a secure and efficient data sharing infrastructure and framework is needed, and must reassure stakeholders. These data-sharing standards are essential for the development of new business models.

As a partner, IMT will position itself as a facilitator by joining in the preparatory work and setting up tests on the Teralab platform. It will focus on the issues of security, sovereignty and cybersecurity. It will also look at regulatory frameworks, the concept of transparency and trusted AI.

“These are not just words, but real challenges to promote values and competitiveness in Europe. The objective is not to create a cloud infrastructure but to lay the foundations for data governance in order to create a dynamic between ecosystems. The strategic objective is to anticipate the creation of standards and create a network between economic actors.” says Anne-Sophie Taillandier, Director the IMT Teralab platform.

About IMT www.imt.fr

Institut Mines-Télécom is a French public higher education institution under the aegis of the Ministry for the Economy, Industry and Digital Sector. It includes 8 engineering schools, 2 subsidiary schools and a network of strategic affiliated partners. Its activities in the fields of engineering and digital technology contribute to training engineers and managers, developing research partnerships, promoting innovation and supporting 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 certifications for the quality of its partner-based research. Each year, IMT trains over 12,000 students, concludes nearly 70 million research contracts, and hosts some 100 start-ups in its incubators.

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