



Press release  
December 10th 2020

## **Institut Mines-Télécom/Sup de Co Dakar Bachelor's program begins its second year**

**The "Innovation, Management, Digital Technologies" Bachelor's program offered by Institut Mines-Télécom (IMT) and Sup de Co Dakar combines engineering and management sciences and is firmly focused on the local economy. The program is designed to provide on-the-job training to prepare the qualified middle managers the African continent needs to support the digital transformation of its economy. It is part of the Franco-Senegalese Campus, initiated by President Macky Sall and President Emmanuel Macron, aimed at jointly developing innovative training programs between French and Senegalese institutions. A year after it was created, the program has welcomed its second cohort of students. The 19 first-year students started their school year on 25 November 2020.**

The new class of first-year Bachelor's students was welcomed in person and virtually, by Yasmine Sy Sarr, Academic Director for the Sup de Co Dakar group, Frédérique Vincent, Director of Education and International Affairs at IMT, Denis Guibard, Dean of Institut Mines-Télécom Business School and Falou Ndoye, Co-Director of Studies for the Bachelor's program.

### **The great potential of the African continent**

The African continent represents a driver of growth for companies. According to the African Development Bank's "African Economic Outlook 2020" report, for the first time in a decade, investment expenditure accounted for more than half the continent's GDP, compared to consumer spending. Many companies are investing locally. They need engineers and managers as well as middle managers with solid skills in digital technology.

Senegal has one of the fastest-growing economies in Western Africa, with the Emerging Senegal Plan (ESP) 2035 and the development of a digital economy, viewed as a key driver of growth. To achieve its goals, the country is seeking to increase its educational offerings which are not sufficient to meet the market demand for digital skills. As such, IMT has launched a number of educational programs in the country focusing on digital technology. In 2019, it opened its IMT Edulab space and launched the "Innovation, Management, Digital Technologies" Bachelor's degree, which draws on the experience of Institut Mines-Télécom Business School and Sup de Co Dakar.

### **Contribution to local economic development**

The Bachelor's students are in close contact with the business world (site visits, field studies, internships etc.) and make an initial contribution to the development and economic transformation of the country through practical projects included in the course. The program was developed according to a skills-based approach focusing on two aspects:



scientific and technical skills and managerial skills. After completing the three-year program, graduates may either enter the business world, where they will quickly put their expertise to use, or continue their studies at an engineering or management school.

### **At the crossroads of innovation and education**

The Bachelor's courses take place at the Sup de Co Dakar campus and project-based courses are held at the IMT Edulab, a space for experimenting with innovative teaching methods. Located in the very center of Dakar, this space also acts as a third place, bringing together local players active in digital technology, research professors, students etc. for short or hybrid training courses, innovation workshops, conferences, projects etc.

Michel Pavageau, Director of International Relations at IMT, reminds us that, "*The African continent is undergoing tremendous change. In 2014, the number of students was estimated at 5 million. By 2030, it will account for 15 million more. Institut Mines-Télécom is a prominent player in this dynamic growth, from its Senegal campus.*"

### **About IMT [www.imt.fr](http://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 12,000 students, enters into nearly 70 million research contracts, and hosts some 100 start-ups in its incubators.

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