



Press release  
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## **Institut Mines-Télécom and the French-Belgian Chamber of Commerce and Industry form a partnership of excellence**

**Institut Mines-Télécom (IMT) and the French-Belgian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCIFB) have officially announced the signing of a strategic partnership at the French Embassy in Belgium on 15 December 2023. This collaboration between the two nationally and internationally renowned institutions aims to strengthen the connections between higher education, research and business.**

### **Cooperation on strategic themes**

By joining forces, the two historic institutions have committed to fostering innovation and research within companies. This partnership will enable Institut Mines-Télécom and the CCIFB to work together on shared or complementary themes, promoting exchanges and their teams' research in a spirit of complementarity and reciprocity. The major focus areas for this partnership meet the needs of economic stakeholders: responsible industry of the future, energy, circular economy and society, digital sovereignty and sobriety, and health and well-being engineering.

Belgium, which is home to many European decision-making bodies, provides a strategic platform for improving the visibility and influence of the Institut Mines-Télécom within the European Union. The CCIFB, in conjunction with the French Embassy and the Permanent Representation of France to the European Union, has historically supported the European development of French research. This alliance with the CCIFB provides IMT with a platform for exchange to strengthen its relationships with key companies and decision-makers in Europe.

### **Cooperation initiatives**

As a result of this collaboration, researchers from Institut Mines-Télécom will join forces with the CCIFB and its members and will pursue joint initiatives. In addition to academic projects and partnership research, this collaboration will include joint events, seminars, conferences, and other occasions to support companies and economic development. The two partners will start by organising an event on digital health in 2024 and will work together to prepare for the Forum on Digital Sovereignty by FrenchTech scheduled for June 2024.

### **Increasing joint French and Belgian influence**

By implementing joint actions to support companies and economic development, Institut Mines-Télécom and CCIFB will actively contribute to increasing the impacts of both French and Belgian academic, entrepreneurial and industrial endeavours. The aim of this cooperation is to make significant contributions to shared European and international dynamics.

The partnership agreement will contribute to fulfilling Institut Mines-Télécom's strategy for 2023-2027 by helping IMT become a committed, visible and recognised stakeholder in the European ecosystem while also allowing it to organise regional, French and European partnerships.

Vincent Charvillat, Deputy Executive Director of Institut Mines-Télécom: *"We are delighted with this partnership with the French-Belgian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, signed at the French Embassy in Belgium. Institut Mines-Télécom is known for its academic excellence and commitment to innovation. Economic development and support for businesses are objectives we share with the French-Belgian CCI. We want to work together to create innovative jobs and contribute to the development of new professions."*

Anne-Christine Genouville, Director General of the French-Belgian CCI: *"In keeping with our commitment to ensuring the quality of professional relations and bilateral economic vitality, the French-Belgian CCI is delighted to play a role in strengthening the French presence in Belgium by signing this agreement. This unprecedented partnership between Institut Mines-Télécom and the French-Belgian CCI will increase the synergy between, on the one hand, scientific higher education and the world of research and with companies on the other. Our common objective is clear: to foster innovation in French and Belgian companies through education, popularisation and support, thus contributing to industrial competitiveness and the development of future technology."*



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**About Institut Mines-Télécom** [www.imt.fr/en](http://www.imt.fr/en)

Institut Mines-Télécom is the leading public group of French engineering and management schools to be placed under the supervisory authority of the Ministry of the Economy, Finances and Industrial and Digital Sovereignty. It is a public research and higher education institution made up of eight public graduate schools: IMT Atlantique, IMT Mines Albi, IMT Mines Alès, IMT Nord Europe, Institut Mines-Télécom Business School, Mines Saint-Étienne, Telecom Paris and Telecom SudParis as well as two subsidiary schools: EURECOM and InSIC. It leads and develops a rich ecosystem of partner schools and economic, academic and institutional partners and players in training, research and economic development.

Created to meet France's needs in economic and industrial development since the 19th century, Institut Mines Télécom's graduate schools have supported all the communications and industrial revolutions. Through its research and its training of engineers, managers and PhD students, Institut Mines-Télécom tackles the major industrial, digital, energy and environmental challenges in France, Europe and around the world.

Today, Institut Mines-Télécom and its 10 schools are imagining and building a world that combines science, technology and economic development with a respect for the planet and the people who live on it. It is double Carnot certified and trains 13,600 students every year.



### **About the CCI France Belgique**

Founded in 1885, the CCI France Belgique (CCIFB) is one of the oldest of France's 119 international Chambers of Commerce and Industry. As such, it is a privileged witness to major bilateral Franco-Belgian investments, with Belgium set to become France's 2nd largest trading partner by 2022. The strength of the Chamber's professional network facilitates the day-to-day promotion, networking and support of French companies. Today, the CCI France Belgique's Business Club network includes 335 member companies of all sizes and origins, and 1,500 business decision-makers, making it the leading Franco-Belgian business circle in Belgium. In addition, the CCIFB supports an average of 300 French companies in Belgium every year, through its consulting, prospecting, communication, set-up and accommodation facilities at its business center on Rue de la Loi in Brussels.

These wide-ranging missions enable the Chamber to fulfill its role as a conduit for business between different business communities.

### **Press contact Institut Mines-Télécom :**

Séverine Picault

06 27 66 05 09 – [severine.picault@imt.fr](mailto:severine.picault@imt.fr)