

PRESS RELEASE**25 NOVEMBER 2021**

Bpifrance and UDICE, an alliance of 10 leading French research universities, are further strengthening their cooperation to support the emergence of deeptech startups based on public research

Nice, 25 November 2021 – Paul-François Fournier, Senior Executive Vice President Innovation at Bpifrance, and Jeanick Brisswalter, President of Université Côte d’Azur and Udice member, signed, as part of the Deeptech Tour in Nice at Université Côte d’Azur, a cooperation agreement that will mobilise their resources and expertise to ramp up the creation of deeptech startups from research laboratories.

This commitment is aligned with one of the goals from the Deeptech Plan launched by Bpifrance to support the emergence of 500 deeptech startups per year by 2030.

“We are delighted about this partnership with Udice, which will contribute, in line with our Deeptech Plan, to the emergence of more startups from research laboratories”, confirms Paul-François Fournier, Senior Executive Vice President Innovation at Bpifrance. “Deeptech will be a key driving force to ensure increased resilience faced with societal challenges (health, climate, industry) and one of the cornerstones of the re-industrialisation of France. The announcements from the France 2030 Plan have further strengthened this conviction, setting a target to double the number of research-based startups created every year and to create 100 deeptech industrial sites”.

“This agreement with Bpifrance is one of the first signed by Udice, and this is not by chance!”, explains Jeanick Brisswalter, Université Côte d’Azur President, who represented Udice President Christine Clerici when this agreement was signed. “Our universities have no reason to fear international comparisons in terms of their robust performance for the emergence and development of startups based on research and our young graduates. The ecosystems that we have developed are some of France’s leading assets today to achieve the ambitions from the Deeptech Plan and more generally the France 2030 Plan. The strengthening of our relationship with Bpifrance will help us to make them more visible and more competitive on the international stage”.

In connection with the rollout of the Deeptech Plan, Bpifrance aims to put in place and develop a network-based way of operating with all of the innovation stakeholders in order to increase flows for the creation of startups harnessing disruptive technologies and supporting their growth so that they can become tomorrow’s industrial champions.

This objective is in line with Udice’s firm belief that public laboratories’ research work could be capitalised on more widely to meet our society’s challenges, thanks in particular to better integration with training programmes on student entrepreneurship. Uniting together 10 outstanding French universities, the entrepreneurial and innovation-driven mindset is central to the Udice project. Around 180 startups are created each year within the Udice Group Universities, and seven of the 10 schools are ranked in the Top 100 most innovative universities (Reuters 2019).

This cooperation will aim to further strengthen the impact of public investment in research, maturation and emergence in the deeptech sector.

This agreement is focused specifically on the following objectives:

- Creating a space for research to develop analytical tools at campus scale in terms of fostering emergence, welcoming, supporting and developing deeptech startups;
- Developing deeptech visibility and events-focused partnerships, including on the international stage;
- Developing actions and tools to support the adoption of an entrepreneurial culture, and support the structuring of actions by university hubs in order to ramp up their impact in relation to innovative businesses;
- Further strengthening the funding continuum for startup projects through a structured and collaborative approach.

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About Bpifrance

Bpifrance finances companies - at every stage of their development - through credit, guarantees and equity. Bpifrance supports them with their innovation and international projects. Bpifrance also supports their export activity through a wide range of products. Consulting, university, networking and acceleration programme for startups, SMEs and ISEs are also part of the

offering for entrepreneurs.

Thanks to Bpifrance and its 50 regional offices, entrepreneurs benefit from a single, local and effective contact to help them meet their challenges.

Learn more at: www.Bpifrance.fr - <https://presse.bpifrance.fr/> - Follow us on Twitter: @Bpifrance - @BpifrancePresse

About Udice

The Udice Group unites together 10 of France's most renowned public, multidisciplinary research universities. These universities are characterised by their ambitions and the deep transformations they have embarked on over the last 10 years to benefit higher education, research and innovation in France and Europe.

Udice is taking action to further strengthen the capacity of universities to positively and sustainably transform their environments, and has a collective voice to highlight the role played by research universities within economic life and French and European society.

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