

## The success of competitiveness clusters

In order to face up to the changes in the economy taking place at a global level, France took the decision to set up new structures to implement its industrial policy within the European framework, in particular to encourage closer cooperation between large and small businesses, academic institutions and research centres, to optimise the synergies between them. This policy, inspired by the trend towards "clusters", is referred to as the "competitiveness clusters" policy.

All the key players involved in the economy in the Paris Île-de-France region have played a proactive role in this initiative, and five competitiveness clusters are already up and running. The fifth existing clusters provide a total of around one million jobs, and plan to create over 100,000 more in the near future. The joint R&D projects planned or in progress are valued at over one billion euros over three years.

These competitiveness clusters will strengthen the Paris Île-de-France region's competitive position on the world stage, notably by encouraging research and innovation.

Competitiveness clusters are in the course of being created :

- **Open Source Valley** : competitiveness cluster for freeware and open source software;
- **"Finance industry : technology and innovation"**: Focusing on technology and innovation in the finance industry, the aim of this competitiveness cluster is to make the Paris Île-de-France region a world-renowned centre of financial expertise ;
- **AsTech** : A business aviation, space travel and propulsion cluster.

## CAP DIGITAL PARIS REGION

### The Digital Content and Knowledge Creation industry

Cap Digital is positioned at the point where digital technologies and six strategic areas with their roots at the heart of the Paris Île-de-France region meet: Knowledge Engineering (specialist search engines), Digital Heritage, Audiovisual and New Media, Video Games, Education, and Digital Lifestyle and Services.

The cluster is currently home to over 280 members (80% of which are SMEs with a focus on innovation), which have opted to work together to improve their competitiveness and visibility at the international level.

Cap Digital is keen to develop its R&D activities and support business growth - including internationally - and to develop a network of organisations specialising in digital content. Since its creation Cap Digital has accredited 48 projects, ten of which are classed as structural.

[www.capdigital.com](http://www.capdigital.com)

## VILLE ET MOBILITE DURABLES

### The socio-economic challenges of cities, housing and mobility viewed from a Sustainable Development perspective

The Ville et Mobilité Durables (Sustainable City and Mobility) cluster meets the needs of the city of tomorrow from the perspective of research and development into innovative services and technologies, against a backdrop of developing new skills and putting in place new job opportunities based on three closely-related themes:

- the city, urban development and city management ;
- housing and construction ;
- mobility of people, goods and information.

The cluster is already home to over 70 organisations involved in the economy of the Paris Île-de-France region, including:

- major companies such as Bouygues Construction, Vinci, Solétanche-Bachy, Véolia, Suez, Groupe EGIS, EDF, GDF, SNCF, RATP, Eurodisney, etc., as well as numerous SMEs with a focus on innovation;
- research centres such as the CEMAGREF (agricultural and environmental engineering research centre), the National Institute for Transport and Safety Research, the Building Scientific and Technical Centre, the Western Paris Regional Laboratory, and so on ;
- universities and the elite grandes écoles : Ecole Nationale des Ponts & Chaussées, Ecole Nationale des Sciences Géographiques, Ecole supérieure de génie urbain, Ecole Spéciale des Travaux Publics, Ecole des Ingénieurs de la Ville de Paris, the Île-de-France universities, etc.

[www.pole-vmd.org](http://www.pole-vmd.org)

## MEDICEN PARIS REGION

### A cluster for innovative therapies and advanced technologies in healthcare

Medicen Paris Region supports the development of synergies and the implementation of major cooperative projects, bringing together the major players in life sciences and healthcare in the Paris Île-de-France region.

- Small companies: around fifty in biotechnologies and medical devices
  - Large companies: Bio-Rad France, GE Healthcare, GlaxoSmithKline, Guerbet, Ipsen, LFB, Philips France, Pierre Fabre, SANOFI-AVENTIS, Servier and Siemens Medical Solutions France
  - Scientific or clinical research organisations: AP- HP, Cancéropôle Île-de-France, CEA, CNRS, INRA, INRIA, Inserm, Curie, Gustave Roussy and Pasteur Institutes
  - Universities and the elite grandes écoles: École Centrale de Paris, École Normale Supérieure Cachan, École Polytechnique, ENSCP, ENSMP, ESCOM, ESPCI, INA-PG, Paris V, Paris VI, Paris VII, Paris Sud XI, Paris XII, PRES Paris Sud, and the universities of Cergy-Pontoise and Versailles

Six priority themes: Eye diseases and disorders of the nervous system, cancers, infectious diseases, biomedical imaging, molecular and cellular therapies, drug design science and technology.

[www.medicen.org](http://www.medicen.org)

## SYSTEM@TIC PARIS REGION

### Join the Digital Revolution !

The cluster is investing 600 million euros between 2005 and 2008 in research into software, electronics and optics technologies. The results of this research will be used in applications in four major markets: Automotive/Transport, Security/Defence, Telecommunications, and Systems Design and Development tools.

SYSTEM@TIC PARIS-REGION already includes over 200 firms and organisations, with:

- Over sixty major industrial groups, including: Alcatel, Altis, Axalto, Bull, Cegelec, CS Communication et Systèmes, Dassault Aviation, Dassault Systems, EADS, EDF, France Télécom, Motorola, RATP, Renault, Sagem, Siemens, SNCF, Thales, Thomson, and Valeo
- Over sixty SMEs and SMLs, including: Principia, Adise, Amesim, Bertin Technologies, Bureau Veritas, CAPS Entreprise, CGG, Esterel Technologies, Euraltech, Ommic, Picogiga International SAS, Pyramis, Trialog and Trusted Logic
- Over sixty research centres and elite grandes écoles, including: CEA, CNES, CNRS, Inria, Onera, the universities of Cergy-Pontoise, Paris VI, Paris VII and Paris-Sud XI, University of Versailles-Saint-Quentin, École Polytechnique, École Centrale de Paris, GET (Groupe des Ecoles de Télécommunications), Supélec
- Around fifteen local authorities: The Île-de-France region, administrative departments (75, 78, 91, 92, 94) and urban communities

[www.systematic-paris-region.org](http://www.systematic-paris-region.org)

## MOV'EO

### Safe highways, streets and public and individual transport for people and their environment

Mov'eo, a competitiveness cluster on an international scale, is structured around five areas of activity:

- Energy and propulsion systems
- Road safety
- Mobility and services
- Product life cycles and the environment
- Mechatronics

The cluster represents a total of over 200,000 jobs and is the result of synergies between world-ranked industrial players (such as Renault, PSA Peugeot-Citroën, Siemens, Safran, Total, Valéo, Veolia and RATP), and research centres, universities and the elite grandes écoles (including INRETS, the CETAM, the CNRS, the Ecole des Mines de Paris, Supelec, etc).

Two examples of Mov'eo projects are:

- Life cycle and environment: reducing vehicle greenhouse gas emissions
- Road safety: developing systems to prevent dangerous behaviour by drivers

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