

Press Release – 3 December 2018

NExT, the Nantes I-site, will finance 8 structuring and ambitious projects in the fields of health and industry of the future



After government approval last summer, the Nantes I-site project NExT, led by the University of Nantes, Nantes University Hospital, Centrale Nantes and Inserm, is now going live with the first call for projects underway. Objective: to build structuring and highly ambitious research and training projects in Nantes, in the fields of health and industry of the future, while strengthening existing collaboration with all of the project partners (CNRS, IFFSTAR, INRA, Institut de Cancérologie de l'Ouest, IMT Atlantique, ONIRIS).

Institut de Cancérologie de l'Ouest, IMT Atlantique, ONIRIS).

The NExT project aims to make Nantes a world-class university site, with a strong emphasis placed on two major and interdisciplinary societal issues:

- health of the future: with a particular focus on innovative biotherapies, nuclear medicine and cancer, and precision medicine.
- industry of the future: with the aim of creating an innovative research and training ecosystem centred around advanced production technologies and ocean engineering.

NExT is also tasked with supporting and accelerating the implementation of a new university model in Nantes: one which is innovative, more flexible, more open and which aims to provide the framework for student success and fulfilment and to foster major innovation. A new university jointly founded by the University of Nantes, Centrale Nantes, Nantes University Hospital and Inserm, will thus see the light at the beginning of 2020, once its statutes have been approved by the different institutional bodies during 2019.

“As soon as it is formed in 2020, the new university in Nantes will become one of the top 14 leading research universities in France: a major asset in terms of international influence and attractiveness. This innovative vision of the university - which combines high standards with reaching out, excellence with social ties that galvanize the other stakeholders in Nantes - acts as a tremendous catalyst for our collaboration and opens up excellent prospects for development.”

- Olivier Laboux, Dean, University of Nantes

8 calls for projects and a dedicated team: NExT goes live

NExT is now going live thanks to the financing obtained through the award of its I-site status in July 2018, amounting to more than €29.7 million over a period of 4 years (to which will be added €21 million from local authorities).

In addition to the setting up of a dedicated project team in order to maintain the cooperation dynamic between the various stakeholders and to pilot the implementation of innovative actions, 8 calls for research, training, innovation or international projects were launched on 3rd December 2018:

- ✓ **Deep Tech Founders Programme:** develop and disseminate an entrepreneurial culture among students and research staff, foster the emergence and intention to create and support creators and their ideas in an optimal fashion
- ✓ **Integrated research clusters:** federate an interdisciplinary community to develop training, research and innovation and facilitate the development of initiatives and new projects
- ✓ **interdisciplinary internal projects:** create and extend partnerships between researchers in distinct and complementary scientific fields
- ✓ **NExT Junior and Senior Talent programmes:** attract and foster the development of new talents and strengthen the institutions' capacity to recruit new national and international staff
- ✓ **“Globetrotter! International Masters”:** promote the internationalization of existing masters or the development of new international masters
- ✓ **“Experiment with educational innovation”:** foster innovative experiments
- ✓ **“International research partnerships”:** establish new or enhanced international research networks specialising in the NExT themes by developing mobility



- ✓ Call to **participate in internationally renowned inter-university competitions**: increase the site's international visibility, develop talents, reinforce ties with local businesses and institutions and create links with international university teams

To build a world-class university site, the NExt Initiative has a total budget of €58 million over 3 years: €39 million from the state, €12 million from the Pays de la Loire region, €2.4 million from Nantes Métropole and €4.3 million in European funds (ERDF).

Learn more
<http://next-isite.fr>