XSun, Centrale-Audencia-ensa incubator start-up, secures €1.4M in funding

XSun's third year of operation has got off to an excellent start with a run of good news at the end of 2018. The startup announces a first round of funding of €1.4M. It was also selected for one of the incubators of the European Space Agency (ESA BIC Nord France). **Several partners have contributed to this funding for XSun.**

ERDF: "*We are proud to be one of the lucky recipients of ERDF funding from the Pays de Loire Region to support the **SolarXOne programme**, the first solar drone range created by XSun. In addition to the financial aspects, support from the region is very important, encouraging and very motivating*" – Benjamin David, CEO of XSun.

XSun has been also selected by TOTAL for its API (Support for Innovative SMEs) funding programme. Apart from the financial aspects, XSun will benefit from the partnership with SUNPOWER for photovoltaic technologies, and the TOTAL network (France and International) in terms of commercial development.

In addition, XSun has secured a major first round of funding from high quality private investors, all of whom have rich entrepreneurial backgrounds in France and abroad.

ESA BIC: "*With the unwavering support of Atlanpole, we are also very pleased to be the first Pays de Loire company selected by the European Space Agency (Nord France) as part of the ESA BIC programme. This will provide strong support to XSun on quite complex technical topics (SATCOM, onboard solar energy management, operations) and in the commercial sphere (optimization of business models) as well as access to networks of European investors*" - Benjamin David.

ANRT: XSun has received the go-ahead from the ANRT for PhD theses on research topics with 3 - soon to be 5 - laboratories / engineering schools, including the University of Nantes, which further strengthens the scientific support for the project.

XSun was founded in Guérande in 2016 by Benjamin DAVID which designs and operates innovative and autonomous drones powered by solar energy. XSun is developing its first SolarXOne range based on technologies from the space sector. This autonomous aircraft is packed full with innovative technology, notably its novel dual airfoil aerodynamic configuration (tandem) which ensures weight and performance gains allowing in particular for strong autonomy.
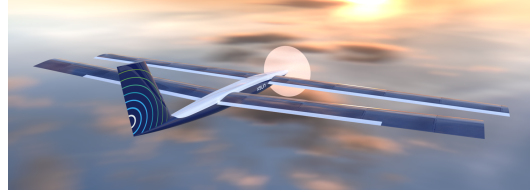
SolarXOne ©

XSun offers monitoring services, data acquisition and surveillance services for large structures (pipelines, railway lines, electricity lines, roads, etc) or large areas (forests). These services are available for businesses in the fields of gas, oil, cartography, the maritime sector and agriculture.
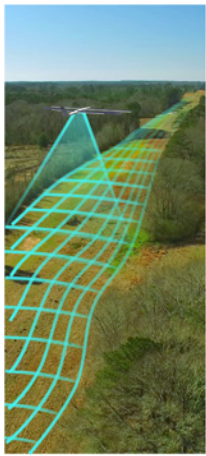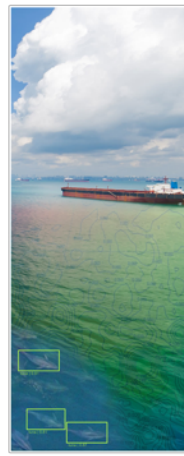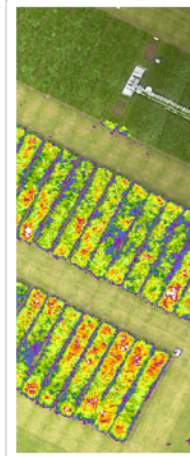
Infrastructure	Environment	Maritime	Agriculture

About Centrale Nantes

Founded in 1919, Centrale Nantes is a French engineering school and member of the Ecoles Centrale Group. Its undergraduate, Master and PhD programmes are based on the latest scientific and technological developments and the best management practices. At Centrale Nantes, research and training are organised into three key areas for growth and innovation: manufacturing, energy transition and healthcare. With research platforms ranging from digital simulation to prototyping using full-scale models and an incubator with 20 years of experience in supporting start-up projects, the school has two major tools for innovation and creation, working hand in hand with industry. Centrale Nantes promotes its teaching and research capabilities at international level through around 100 partnerships with prestigious universities and schools worldwide.

Centrale Nantes welcomes 2,410 students, including 1,440 undergraduate students, 170 Executive Education and ITII degree apprenticeship students, 270 PhD students, 430 Masters students, and 100 Bachelor/Foundation Master students on its 40-acre campus.

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