



XSun receives European recognition of excellence and signs its first contracts

Deep Tech startup XSun designs and produces innovative drones, which are autonomous in energy and decision-making. It is one of seven French companies selected by the European Research Council as part of the support programme for researchers recognized in their field (H2020). This strong support from Europe comes with total available funding of 5.3 million euros.



The world's first autonomous drone hails from the Pays de la Loire region

The SX1.2 solar model was presented on its catapult today. With more than 100 test flights to its name, it has already won over customers. One of whom is ENEDIS, for which XSun provides power line surveillance, incident prevention and the implementation of innovative solutions to restart the network in the event of exceptional weather events. AGENIUM is also using XSun's drone solutions for environmentally sound processing within the framework of sustainable agriculture.

Future prospects

This new funding will notably help XSun set up a production line in Guérande, open four control centres in Europe, and develop its new SX1.3 drone model, which will bear XSun's hallmarks: dual airfoil and use of solar energy.

"We are very proud to have been recognised by the European Commission as a high potential, significant and very innovative programme. We are fully in line with the European Innovation Council's (EIC) mission to support European breakthrough technologies. This support will enable us to scale up a disruptive technology and to achieve in two years what otherwise would have taken us five or ten. Thanks to all of our partners, we will be able to move quickly to the industrial scale and expand into the European market", explained Benjamin David, CEO.



Partners

Xsun has a strong support network:

Financial institutions:

- Europe: ERDF and H2020 via the European Commission and the European Investment Bank
- Banque Publique d'Investissement (BPI): XSun was one of the first French companies to be selected as part of the "DEEP TECH" programme
- Banque Populaire, Crédit Agricole and BNP

Clusters and business incubators:

- Atlanpole
- EMC2, PMBA and S2E2
- CAP ATLANTIQUE
- AXANDUS: industrial accelerator

Research and scientific institutes:

- European Space Agency (ESA): XSun was one of the first companies to be selected as part of the ESA BIC (Nord de France) programme
- Ecole Centrale de Nantes
- Centrale Innovation
- Research Institutes: Institut de Recherche en Energie Electrique de Nantes Atlantique (IREENA), Research Institute in Civil and Mechanical Engineering (GEM) and CNRS Institut des Matériaux (IMN), Nantes

Industry:

- AIRBUS: financial and technical support via the Technocampus Composites
- 3DExperienceLab, Dassault Systèmes: technical and communication support
- TOTAL: Financial and strategic support (API – Aides aux PME Innovantes)
- N'VIDIA: technical support on Artificial Intelligence via the INCEPTION programme

Financiers	Institutionnels	R&D	Stratégiques	Industriels



About XSun

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. 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. XSun employs thirteen staff, who all share a passion for innovation and aeronautics.

About Airbus

Airbus is a global leader in aeronautics, space and related services. In 2018 it generated revenues of € 64 billion and employed a workforce of around 134,000. Airbus offers the most comprehensive range of passenger airliners. Airbus is also a European leader providing tanker, combat, transport and mission aircraft, as well as one of the world's leading space companies. In helicopters, Airbus provides the most efficient civil and military rotorcraft solutions worldwide.

About Atlanpole

Atlanpole is accredited by the French Ministry of Research as the science-based business incubator for the whole Pays de la Loire region. As the reference point of contact for two thematic French Tech networks, it fosters the emergence, creation and development of innovative companies, start-up companies and of small and medium sized enterprises.
www.atlanpole.fr

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.

For more information: www.ec-nantes.fr

Media Library: <https://phototheque.ec-nantes.fr/> / [@CentraleNantes](https://twitter.com/CentraleNantes)

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About Dassault Systèmes

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