

Press Release
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Creation of a 'Gas Economy' Chair: an alliance between universities and industrial companies to prepare the future of gas energy

Thursday 20 October, François Levêque, Professor at MINES ParisTech university announced the launch of a 'Gas Economy' Chair at a conference on 'Gas in energy transitions'. This Chair, overseen by MINES ParisTech, Paris-Dauphine University, IFP School and Toulouse School of Economics, is dedicated exclusively to the gas economy, in order to remedy the lack of academic research in the field. EDF, GRTgaz and Total are committed to providing their support to the Chair's work until the end of 2020 to strengthen cooperation with industrial companies in the sector and to make a success of the energy transition.

The 'Gas Economy' Chair will favour 3 avenues of research: the place of gas in the energy transition in Europe; detailed understanding of the European regulation; analysing and processing market and routing data. These subjects should shed worthwhile light on the public decision on the expected changes to the energy mix in France. With the development of new uses (industry, mobility, etc.), the rising power of renewable gas resources, and not forgetting the essential synergy between gas and renewable electricity production, the gas industry must be prepared to undergo a true revolution.

MINES ParisTech, Paris-Dauphine University, IFP School and Toulouse School of Economics have developed a policy of scientific excellence in the energy economy and have internationally-recognised scientific capabilities. The Chair will make it possible to promote and facilitate teaching about the gas economy in France's different higher education establishments. From a scientific viewpoint, the aim of the Chair is to promote work intended for publication in the best international journals.

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About MINES ParisTech – mines-paristech.fr - @MINES_ParisTech

Since its creation in 1783, MINES ParisTech has trained very high level engineers able to solve complex problems in very varied fields. The leading French college in terms of its volume of contractual research, MINES ParisTech has a significant research activity focused particularly on industry, with support from ARMINES, an organisation dedicated to partnering research programmes. Its research areas extend from energy to materials, including applied mathematics, geosciences and economic & social sciences.

MINES ParisTech is a founding member of ParisTech, which unites Paris' 12 largest engineering and management colleges. The college is also a founding member of the *Paris Sciences et Lettres* research university - PSL Research University - that unites 16 prestigious higher education and research institutions in the heart of Paris. Furthermore, the MINES ParisTech Foundation, one of France's oldest academic foundations founded in 1946, supports and funds the college's development projects.

About Paris-Dauphine University - dauphine.fr

Paris-Dauphine University is a large higher education establishment conducting education and research activities in the field of organisational and decision sciences (management, economics, mathematics, computing, law, sociology and political science). It has 386 permanent lecturers and 8,700 students, 56% on Masters courses, 37% taking first degrees and 6% studying for doctorates. With its EQUIS accreditation renewed in 2015, Paris-Dauphine University is one of Europe's leading universities in its field and a founding member of PSL (*Paris Sciences et Lettres*), which forms part of the initiatives for excellence selected by an international jury as part of the French *Grand Emprunt* ['big loan' or future investment] programme. Paris-Dauphine University is also a member of the *Conférence des Grandes Ecoles* [Large Colleges Conference].

About IFP School - ifp-school.com

Integral part of IFP New Energies, IFP School prepares tomorrow's specialists to meet the challenges associated with the energy transition. Open to graduates from higher education, IFP School offers a full range of French and English language courses in energy sectors (oil, gas, petrochemicals, engine technologies, new energy technologies, energy markets). Benefiting from close collaborations with the worlds of research and industry, the College has gained very wide international renown as shown by its intake containing 50% international students coming from fifty countries and 80% of students receiving industrial finance for their studies.

About Toulouse School Economics – tse-fr.eu

Created in the 1980s by French economist Jean-Jacques Laffont, TSE has existed in its current form since 2006. The community now combines more than 150 international researchers with a common slogan: scientific excellence to create and share knowledge. Backed by Toulouse 1 Capitole University, supported by CNRS*, INRA, EHESS and partner companies, TSE has also made its dynamism available for teaching by creating a Doctoral College in 1996 and then an economics '*grande école*' within the University in 2011. [*CNRS = French national scientific research centre; INRA = French national agricultural research institute; EHESS = Paris school for advanced studies in the social sciences]. In short, over the years TSE has become a benchmark in research and teaching, in a privileged environment, at the heart of South-West France.

About EDF – edf.com

The EDF Group, a leader in the European energy market, is an integrated energy company, represented across all business sectors: energy production, transport, distribution, trading and sale. 85.1% of the Group's production is carbon-free (16.3 g of CO₂ per kWh produced). The Group has 158,467 employees around the world and an R&D budget of €543m. 6,000 new employees joined the EDF Group in 2013. The Group takes part in supplying energy and services to more than 39.1 million customers around the world and made a consolidated turnover of €75.6bn in 2013.

About GRTgaz – grtgaz.com – @GRTgaz

GRTgaz is one of the European leaders in natural gas transport and a global expert in gas transport grids and systems. In France, GRTgaz owns and operates 32,320 km of underground pipelines and 27 compressor stations to convey gas between suppliers and consumers (distributors or industrial companies connected directly to the transport grid). GRTgaz fulfils public service roles to ensure continuity of supply to consumers and sells transport services to network users. Involved in energy transition, GRTgaz is investing in innovative solutions to adapt its network and to reconcile competitiveness, security of supply and environmental protection.

About Total - total.com

Total is a global, world-class energy group, one of the leading international oil and gas companies, world no.2 for solar energy with SunPower. Its 96,000 employees are committed to better, safer, cleaner, more efficient and more innovative energy, accessible to as many people as possible. Present in more than 130 countries, Total does all it can to ensure that its activities are accompanied by positive economic, social and environmental effects.