The CNRS finds applications for the results of its research laboratories

A NETWORK FOR INNOVATION

The CNRS Innovation and Business Relations Department (DIRE) monitors and facilitates the cycle of innovation.

- It coordinates 300 technology transfer professionals, 18 CNRS regional partnership and technology transfer departments, and FIST SA, a subsidiary dedicated to industrial applications, managing the CNRS patent portfolio and negotiating operating agreements (www.fist.fr).
- The CNRS also relies on the local action of the 14 technology transfer companies (SATTs) in which it is a shareholder.
- Each year, the CNRS allocates €18 million (excluding payroll costs) to technology transfer.

TRANSFERING TECHNOLOGY

With 4,535 patents and 1,237 active licenses, the CNRS guarantees the protection of its laboratories’ results. The DIRE registers patents, signs licensing agreements and supports the creation of innovative businesses with FIST SA and the SATTs.

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS WITH INDUSTRY

From startups to multinationals, the CNRS offers an array of solutions to help companies develop their R&D capacity. It works closely with industry through about a hundred public/private research units, 2,000 research contracts each year and 26 framework agreements with large corporations (EDF, Essilor, Safran, Thales, etc.).

CREATING BUSINESSES

As a driver of economic growth, the CNRS takes pride in the launch of more than 1,000 innovative companies, generating 7,000 jobs (Innoveox, SuperSonic Imagine, WatchFrog, etc.) since 1999. It provides support for entrepreneurs at every stage of the startup process, through consulting and coaching, simplified administrative procedures, tailored financial conditions and equity investment through FIST SA. In addition, the CNRS participates in the development of a seed capital fund for the benefit of innovative startups.

PROMOTING BREAKTHROUGH INNOVATION

- The CNRS earmarks £2 million annually to help bring projects with strong innovation potential to fruition.
- The CNRS concentrates its efforts, both at the national and international level, on key fields of expertise, or “CNRS Transfer Focus” areas.

SHARING KNOWLEDGE

Each year, the CNRS gives access to its laboratories and technological platforms for 180 short training sessions in key areas. Its experts also provide training at companies’ premises. https://cnrsformation.cnrs.fr

The CNRS services, including consulting, expertise, assessments, publishing, thesis supervision and laboratory experience promote interaction between researchers and industry on innovative projects.

As the organizer of high-profile events on innovation-oriented themes (“Innovatives” forums www.innovatives.cnrs.fr), or “Start-up Connexion” calls for proposals) and a participant in business seminars and conferences, the CNRS reaches out to the socio-economic world.
THE 20 “CNRS TRANSFER FOCUS” AREAS FOR INNOVATION

- Graphene and 2D nanomaterials
- Memory technology (magnetism, spintronics)
- Optoelectronics - Therapeutic light sources
- Optoelectronics - LED
- Optoelectronics - THz sources
- Oncology - Immunotherapy
- Oncology - Biomarkers
- Oncology - Tumor stem cells
- Oncology - Epigenetics
- Alzheimer’s
- HIV
- Dermocosmetics
- Molecular imaging agents
- Batteries
- Organic photovoltaic solar energy
- Thin-film photovoltaic solar energy
- Lignocellulosic biomass applications
- Industrial use of CO₂
- Service robotics
- Big data

THE CNRS AT A GLANCE

The French National Center for Scientific Research, or CNRS, is a public research organization. Its 10 specialized institutes cover all scientific disciplines, from the humanities and social sciences to biological sciences, nuclear and particle physics, information sciences, engineering and systems, physics, mathematical sciences, chemistry, Earth sciences and astronomy, and ecology and the environment.

The CNRS operates 1,025 joint research units, of which 35 are outside of France. With a budget of €3.2 billion, it is home to 32,544 researchers, engineers and technicians. The organization is also involved in the development and operation of large-scale research facilities, including telescopes, particle accelerators, supercomputers and very large databases.

Every year, the CNRS awards its Gold Medal and Medal of Innovation.

Contact

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A leading research player at the heart of scientific, technological and societal challenges, the CNRS provides businesses with solutions for innovation.