Developing very large-scale research facilities

Telescopes, particle accelerators, computers, large databases are essential tools for modern research. The CNRS helps to design and develop very large-scale research facilities, which are useful for all disciplines.

Disseminating knowledge

The CNRS facilitates access to scientific and technical information, which is essential to laboratories. It disseminates the results of its research to a wide audience through social networks, films, magazines, exhibitions, and press conferences.

Driving innovation

Researchers and engineers contributed to the creation of more than 1,000 start-up companies. With a portfolio of 4,500 patent families, the CNRS is among France’s top ten patent filers. It also plays an active role in France’s 14 technology transfer companies (SATT).

Leading scientific research

The CNRS contributes to the emergence of large higher-education centers that will give rise to France’s world-class multidisciplinary research universities. It is a founding member of the five French Research Alliances.

Generating knowledge

With 11,200 researchers, the CNRS is at the forefront of international research. It is the world’s first producer of scientific research papers, with 43,000 publications each year on average for the period 2007-2011, according to the Global Scimago Institutions Rankings 2013.

Playing a key role on the international scene

The CNRS contributes to the visibility of French research worldwide, through 35 international joint units, a network of offices abroad and partnership agreements with more than 60 countries.

Working hand in hand with industry

The CNRS has signed framework agreements with 25 large companies listed on the French stock exchange and shares 103 joint laboratories with industry.

The National Center for Scientific Research is a public organization under the responsibility of the French Ministry of National Education, Higher Education and Research.

A pluridisciplinary institution, it covers all scientific disciplines, including the humanities and social sciences, biological sciences, nuclear and particle physics, information sciences, engineering and systems, physics, mathematical sciences, chemistry, Earth sciences and astronomy, ecology and the environment.

An interdisciplinary body, it promotes interaction between disciplines.

With nearly 33,000 researchers, engineers and technicians, the CNRS is organized around 10 institutes which orchestrate its scientific policy, while its 19 divisions represent it in the regions. The CNRS has a budget of approximately €3.3 billion.

Its more than 1,100 research and service units, including some 95% in partnership with universities, higher education institutions and other research organizations, are present throughout France.

Each year, the CNRS awards its Gold Medal, which is the highest scientific distinction in France.