

The CNRS at ChangeNOW Summit

March 30 - April 1, 2026

Grand Palais, Paris

TUESDAY, MARCH 31

12:00PM

12:45PM

WORKSHOP

Rare Earth, at the Crossroad of Sustainability, Competitiveness and Sovereignty

Crystal Bubble

From circular economy and resource sobriety to smarter production, this workshop explores the challenges of rare earths at a time when sovereignty and industrial competitiveness are at stake. Discover how CNRS research fuels knowledge and innovation, paving the way for breakthrough technologies and a more sustainable future.

Mehdi GMAR, CNRS Deputy CEO for Innovation

Stéphane PELLET-ROSTAING, CNRS Senior Researcher in Chemistry, Director of the ICSM (Institut de Chimie Séparative de Marcoule)

Pascale RICARD, CNRS Research Fellow in Law, Specialist in International Law at DICE (Droits International, Comparé et Européen)

Sophie RIVOIRARD, MagREEsources Chief Technology Officer

1:00PM

2:00PM

NETWORKING

Critical materials: Connecting Innovators for a Sustainable Supply Chain

Friends Area

Network with CNRS researchers & startup founders to tackle the critical materials challenge. Focus: partnerships for urban mining, substitution tech, & responsible sourcing. Let's build a circular economy for critical metals—connect, innovate, drive change.

Mehdi GMAR, CNRS Deputy CEO for Innovation

Magn'up is developing a new generation of high-performance, rare-earth-free, recyclable magnets to address key challenges related to industrial sovereignty, reducing environmental impact, and miniaturization, for a wide range of applications (electric mobility, defense, medical, etc.).

MagREEsources uses proprietary recycling technology that enables high recovery rates of high-performance magnetic materials.

Pioniq has developed an innovative energy storage solution based on a material derived from ceramic perovskite. Its solid-state energy storage device uses abundant, recyclable, and cost-effective materials and enables the release of electricity on demand.

Remedy metals offers a fast and environmentally friendly technology for separating rare earth elements based on their magnetic properties.



2:00PM
3:00PM

THEMATIC MEET-UP Innovation in Health

Friends Area

This thematic meetup, hosted by ChangeNOW and co-organized with the CNRS, is a networking event dedicated to the future of healthcare. Its goal is to foster collaboration among key stakeholders, including innovators, research centers, incubators, networks, NGOs, and foundations. With CNRS researchers and their ecosystem of startups in attendance, the meetup will provide an introduction to transforming global health challenges. More importantly, this meetup is open to anyone and any organization passionate about health issues and eager to get involved—regardless of resources or scope of work. It is a unique opportunity to join forces and contribute to shaping the future of healthcare.

Franck MOLINA, Deputy Scientific Director for Innovation at CNRS Engineering

Apateya is a biotechnology company developing a pipeline of innovative small-molecule, non-opioid, first-in-class therapeutic drug solutions—patented or patentable—designed to treat the underlying causes of neuropathic pain.

Astremiha Therapeutics is a deep-tech biotech developing a breakthrough class of broad-spectrum antivirals that target viral persistence through combined antiviral, immunomodulatory, and anti-inflammatory action.

Letsee Imaging is developing an innovative mammograph for early and accurate breast cancer detection.

Sonomind™ is a medical device company dedicated to tackling drug-resistant depression and other neurological and psychiatric disorders using its groundbreaking ultrasound-based, non-invasive neuromodulation technology.

3:45PM
5:00PM

CONFERENCE Collaboration Boosts Innovation

Collective Stage

This session brings together leaders and practitioners to show how breakthrough solutions emerge when expertise, resources, and responsibility are shared. Through concrete cross-sector case studies, the session will highlight what makes collaboration work in practice - clear governance, aligned incentives, shared resources, and trust - and how these partnerships accelerate experimentation, scaling, and measurable impact.

Keynote (15'): **Marian ZACHAR** Decarbonization Strategist, City of Bratislava

Panel (30'): **Ezgi BARCENAS** Chief Corporate Responsibility Officer, L'Oréal, **Mehdi GMAR** CNRS Deputy CEO of Innovation, **Neil MORRIS** Founder and Chairman, Kelpi

Fireside chat (18'): **Cléa MARTINET** VP Group Sustainability, Renault Group, **Nicolas GRANIER** Lieutenant-Colonel of the Yvelines Fire and Rescue Service, Seconded on a Full-Time Basis to Renault Group

Moderator: **Joss FORD** Founder, Enviral



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1

1:00PM
6:00PM

IMPACT JOB FAIR

Come meet our HR teams at the Impact Job Fair

What if your professional life fueled global progress? Join those who are turning scientific discoveries into solutions for society and the planet. Find out our wide range of career opportunities, from laboratory research to essential corporate and technical roles (ie: Finance, IT, HR, and Engineering).

1:15PM
2:30PM

CONFERENCE

War, Climate, and Power : Decolonizing Crisis

Legacy Stage

Crises are not only events, they are systems shaped by power: who controls resources, who defines security, who owns critical technologies, and who dominates information. This session unpacks the nexus of war, climate, and security through a decolonial lens, examining how colonial legacies continue to structure vulnerability, conflict dynamics, and whose lives are treated as disposable. Moving from diagnosis to action, the discussion will explore practical ways to shift agency back to communities: protecting information integrity, strengthening accountability, resisting technological and resource capture, and building decentralised forms of power that safeguard people and ecosystems.

Ilwad ELMAN, Chief Operating Officer, Elman Peace Centre

Malcom FERDINAND, Researcher, CNRS

Mazin QUMSIYEH, Founder, Palestine Institute for Biodiversity and Sustainability, Bethlehem University

Moderator: **Fatou JENG**, Founder, Clean Earth Gambia

2:15PM
3:30PM

CONFERENCE

Relever le défi de l'information (session en français)

Agora Stage

Cette session examine comment la manipulation fonctionne aujourd'hui, des opérations d'influence aux dynamiques des plateformes, qui amplifient les contenus trompeurs et fragilisent la confiance.

Keynote (17') : Vincent FLIBUSTIER, enseignant en citoyenneté numérique

Panel (30') : Lauren BOUDARD, Fondatrice de CLIMAX, **Lucile BERLAND**, journaliste-réalisatrice pour France Télévisions, cofondatrice de Fake Off et coprésidente de l'OFALP, **David CHAVALARIAS**, directeur de recherches au CNRS

Fireside Chat (17') : Benoit LOUTREL, directeur général de l'Autorité de régulation de la communication audiovisuelle et du numérique

Moderateur : **Axel DAUCHEZ**, fondateur de Make.org

AND FROM MARCH 30 TO APRIL 1

New solutions to optimize clean urban mobility

Didier JOSSELIN, CNRS Research Director at the ESPACE Laboratory, will be present with his partners (Maplab and France Mobility) to expose the solutions they provide to optimize urban mobility.

[ChangeNOW full program](#)

