

PRESS RELEASE

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The Institute for Radiological Protection and Nuclear Safety (IRSN) and Université Paris-Saclay sign a framework partnership agreement, consolidating their willingness for scientific collaboration

On 21 March, Sylvie Retailleau, President of Université Paris-Saclay, and Jean-Christophe Niel, Director General of the French Institute for Radiological Protection and Nuclear Safety (IRSN) signed a framework partnership agreement.

The partnership is the continuation of a longstanding relationship between IRSN and Université Paris-Saclay, its constituent faculties and institutes, and its *Grandes Écoles* CentraleSupélec and ENS Paris-Saclay. The signing of this framework agreement will pave the way for a new, broader and more ambitious phase in the partnership.

Three key areas are at the heart of the agreement: research, education and access to platforms.

In regard to research, the partnership plans to develop scientific collaborations in all of the fields covered by the IRSN teams located in the Ile-de-France region for which Université Paris-Saclay can provide the relevant expertise, i.e. health, geosciences and engineering sciences.

In education, the objective is threefold. An initial goal is to strengthen the contribution to the University's doctoral schools with the presence of IRSN teams. Given how important the doctoral programme is to the Institute, this objective is particularly important. The second aspect concerns an increased involvement of IRSN engineers and researchers in programmes at Université Paris-Saclay, which would allow the University to benefit from a wider range of skills for its courses. Finally, the partnership foresees linking students from the University with IRSN through internships, theses, or recruitment opportunities. This is particularly important given the pressures facing the current scientific job market, and the high level of expertise required to guarantee nuclear safety.

As for platforms, the partnership will refine the complementarity of the IRSN and the University's experimental and analytical resources, and introduce procedures making access easier for teams from both institutions.

"The signing of this framework partnership agreement with Université Paris-Saclay marks a key step in the implementation of the IRSN's new policy for scientific partnerships. For the Institute, this confirms our desire to contribute to the Paris-Saclay scientific ecosystem, of which we are an integral part through our facilities in Fontenay-aux-Roses, Le Vésinet, Orsay and Saclay," said Jean-Christophe Niel, Director General of IRSN.

"By signing this framework partnership agreement, Université Paris-Saclay and IRSN have established a shared roadmap for education, research and access to platforms, strengthening our collaborations in a strategic field which deals with major challenges for society: radiation protection and nuclear safety," said Sylvie Retailleau, President of Université Paris-Saclay.