

PRESS RELEASE

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Universit  Paris-Saclay, Alexandria University, STDF, Orange and Schneider Electric launch PHAROS, a pioneering Franco-Egyptian programme to accelerate deep-tech innovation

Universit  Paris-Saclay, Alexandria University in Egypt, the Science, Technology and Innovation Funding Authority (STDF), Orange and Schneider Electric are launching a Franco-Egyptian cooperation programme to foster innovation through cutting-edge research projects and the creation of deep-tech start-ups emerging from academic research. The initiative was formalised on Wednesday 17 June 2026 at the Universit  Paris-Saclay stand during VivaTech, with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two universities and Letters of Intent with the two industrial partners.

Today's economic transformation calls for agile innovation ecosystems, driven by start-ups - and deep-tech start-ups in particular. These companies play a pivotal role by translating cutting-edge technological advances into new applications, while developing compelling value propositions that facilitate collaboration with major industrial groups.

The PHAROS innovation programme (Partnership for High-tech Academic Research, Open Innovation & Start-ups), launched by Universit  Paris-Saclay and Alexandria University in Egypt, together with the Science, Technology and Innovation Funding Authority (STDF) and its two founding industrial partners, Orange and Schneider Electric, is designed to address the innovation needs of industry. It brings together the research expertise and technology development capabilities of the two universities, alongside the Alexandria University Technopark, which will support the technological development of each proof of concept.

To make this open innovation approach a success, PHAROS aims to build an innovation ecosystem with processes capable of transforming scientific research outcomes into industrial solutions with significant economic and societal impact. This will involve:

- identifying priority research areas that address industrial needs, particularly those aligned with companies' technology roadmaps;
- developing collaborative research projects in fields of shared interest, together with proof-of-concept initiatives;
- creating a sustainable pipeline of high-potential deep-tech start-ups by harnessing the complementary strengths of the universities, industrial partners and the Alexandria University Technopark.

The programme will support the selection and development of the first Franco-Egyptian start-ups, from the identification of promising technologies through to prototype development. It also includes a range of strategic initiatives in training, collaborative research and talent mobility between the two countries.

The programme is expected to deliver significant benefits for all stakeholders involved:

- strengthening scientific and technological cooperation between France and Egypt;
- building a structured innovation ecosystem that enables industrial partners to collaborate on

- the technologies of the future;
- providing joint training opportunities for students, doctoral students and postdoctoral researchers, equipping them with a strong understanding of both scientific challenges and the industrial applications of academic research results.

The PHAROS programme will strengthen synergies between France and Egypt by building on the scientific excellence of both countries, the complementary nature of their innovation ecosystems, and their already strong potential for shared economic growth.

PHAROS provides a coherent framework that bridges research and market application, ensuring that scientific advances can be effectively translated into industrial innovation and commercial opportunities.

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