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## PRESS RELEASE

# Eleven higher education and research institutions officially launch the Rennes inter-institutional student incubator

As part of the celebrations to mark the seventh anniversary of the joint INSA Rennes / Rennes School of Business [Master of Science in Innovation and Entrepreneurship \(MSc IE\)](#), eleven higher education institutions in the Rennes area (Agrocampus Ouest, CentraleSupélec, EHESP, ENSCR, EESAB, ENSAI, INSA Rennes, Rennes School of Business, Sciences Po Rennes, University of Rennes 1 and University of Rennes 2) signed a Charter for the initial 'Ideas Lab' phase of the 'Station B' Rennes student incubator project, on Friday 15 November 2019.

The purpose of the project, initiated by Rennes School of Business (Rennes SB) and the Engineering Schools INSA Rennes and CentraleSupélec Rennes, is to set up a multidisciplinary student incubator to offer comprehensive support for local students with a desire to start a business, from their first year of studies until their business is up and running.

The Station B incubation programme is designed as a two-part "rocket":

- The first part is the Ideas Lab, or "*Sas de creation*". This is a support structure within each institution to guide students in the concept phase of their project,
- The second is the inter-institutional incubator platform, called Station B. Selected emerging projects will be brought together in the same location to encourage the cross-fertilisation of skills and knowledge and the sharing of experience between young entrepreneurs from different disciplines and institutions.

The aim is to encourage the emergence of innovative products, both in terms of usage and technology, fuelled by the complementary nature of the member institutions' academic programmes and the support of public and private partners, including in particular local government authorities and the accelerators SATT Ouest Valorisation and POOOL. M'Hamed Drissi, Director of INSA Rennes, said that: "*the aim is to increase the number of students and young graduates from all areas who start up their own businesses, by giving them the desire and the skills to address the societal challenges associated with multiple transitions*".

Jérôme Tré-Hardy, Chairman of POOOL, added "*We are all links in the same chain sharing in the adventure of innovation. Higher education and research are strong links in the chain. This is an exciting source of ideas and potential.*"

*Thomas Froehlicher, Director General of Rennes School of Business noted: "It is a great pleasure to see that all the 'grandes écoles' and universities in the Rennes area and across Brittany are working together on the challenge of student entrepreneurship. This will strengthen the growth ecosystem in our region and improve coordination at every level of the local entrepreneurial chain."*



*From left to right: Régis Gautier, Director of ENSCR, Franck Gelebart, Deputy Academic Dean at EHESP, M'Hamed Drissi, Director of INSA Rennes, Christophe Bidan, Director of Centralesupélec, David Alis, President of the University of Rennes 1, Marta Iglesias Casal, Director of Undergraduate Studies at Sciences Po Rennes, Olivier Biau, Director of ENSAI, Daniele Yvergniaux, Director General of EESAB, Armelle Carnet Lebourrier, Director General of Agrocampus Ouest, Thomas Froehlicher, Director General of Rennes School of Business*

#### **PRESS RELATIONS**

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