

Groupe des Ecoles Centrales - a major player in exchanges and cooperation with Latin America

(Châtenay-Malabry, 15 April 2014) – Groupe des Ecoles Centrales (GEC), made up of the Ecoles Centrales of Paris, Lyon, Lille, Marseille and Nantes, is strongly committed to Latin America. In 2013, this involvement was confirmed through a high level of student mobility, academic exchanges and international university networks.

In 2013, GEC was number one for the mobility of engineering students between France and Brazil.

According to figures provided by the *Conférence des directeurs des écoles françaises d'ingénieurs* (an association of heads of French engineering schools), in the context of the BRAFITEC (Brazil France Technology Engineers) programme, GEC establishments received 30.8% of the total number of visiting students from Brazil on a dual diploma programme (120 placements). In addition, GEC sent 44.4% of the total number of French students who went to Brazil (36 placements).

Groupe des Ecoles Centrales is thus becoming the most important French player in the network of exchanges between France and Brazil for engineering science students.

Moreover, if we look at the overall number of students arriving or departing for placements within GEC institutions and our other Latin American partners, the totals are 17 for Argentina (ARFITEC programme), 31 for Chile (CHILFITEC programme) and 29 for Mexico (MEXFITEC programme).

This means that, in 2013, more than 230 students from Ecoles Centrales and their academic partners in Latin America were involved in student mobility programmes.

The '5+6' network sets up a Research Workshop

For over 10 years, the '5+6' network has been training dual diploma engineers. The network is made up of five Ecoles Centrales and six Brazilian universities: the University of Sao Paulo's Polytechnic School, the State University of Campinas, the Federal University of Ceara, the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, the Pontifical University of Rio de Janeiro and the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul.

So far, more than 650 Brazilian students and 120 French students have graduated with dual diplomas as part of this network.

In 2013, the directors of GEC and its Brazilian partners wanted to take a new step forward in their cooperation, with a strong common approach to research:

A research workshop, held at the University of Campinas in November 2013, brought together around 40 researchers from the '5+6' network, the INPA (Brazilian Aerospace Research Institute) and Supélec. This allowed the first foundations to be laid for collaboration in the fields of energy and the environment.

GEC joins the Magalhaes network

On the initiative of Centrale Nantes, Groupe des Ecoles Centrales was formally admitted as a member of the Magalhaes Network during its latest General Assembly, which took place in Milan in September 2013. The Magalhaes network is a consortium of universities from Europe, Latin America

and the Caribbean created to promote and support student exchanges within the higher education sector.

Through participating in this network, GEC hopes to promote the development of its student mobility and strengthen its academic partnerships with Latin America.

According to Christopher Cripps, Director of International Relations at Centrale Paris, “Groupe des Ecoles Centrales’ presence in Latin America reflects its strategic long-standing commitment to this area of the world, which is very active and economically dynamic. One of Centrale Paris’ major challenges is to train high level engineer-managers to meet the development needs of companies located in this area.”