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The Ecole Centrale Paris strengthens its expansion towards the SME

The Ecole Centrale Paris announces the organisation of the first “Meeting with SME” on the Ecole Centrale Paris campus on March 13. Bringing together the School’s students and 25 Small and Medium Enterprises, this event is a part of the major programme for partnerships aimed at SME which was launched by the School at the beginning of 2012. It aims to inform students of the vocations and professional opportunities offered by smaller companies.

This initiative is based on a simple observation: in Europe, the SME, which represent an important part of jobs and the added value created, are the veritable backbone of the European economy. They are the leading engines for prosperity and economic growth, playing a vital role in innovation, research and development. Studies by the Ecole Centrale Paris clearly show that there is an increasing interest expressed by students for these companies: 25% of students are attracted by entrepreneurship; 30% believe that working in an SME offers excellent opportunities¹ and 30% of student engineers are interested in working in a modest-sized company where they may be able to achieve a position of responsibility more quickly.

Centrale Paris has therefore created partnerships dedicated to Small and Medium Enterprises so that they may benefit from specific and appropriate forms of cooperation. These unique and innovative partnerships aim to inform Centralians of the very wide range of activities covered by SME and the wealth of professional careers available through student projects, internships, company presentations and professional advisors.

In this framework, the first “Meeting with SME” gives students an opportunity to debate with experts from different sectors of activity. Companies represent IT/High Tech, Consultancy, Distribution, Transport, Logistics, Banks, Finance, Insurance, Media, Communications, Marketing, Construction and Public Works, Real Estate, Health care, Biotechnology, Energy, Environment and Manufacturing Industries.

The goal of this mini-forum is both to discover dynamic companies and the multiple opportunities available (many Centralians are at the head of SME) and also, operationally, to find an internship (1st. year, gap year abroad...) and for some to even meet managers of the SME who could be their future employers.

“As a Grande Ecole that is a reference, Centrale Paris is working for economic development and opens its doors to SME who are seen to be extremely innovative and the source of very high-level professional opportunities for our young graduates” says Hervé Biauxser, Director of the School.

The Ecole Centrale Paris has always built up very solid relations with companies (over 100 partner companies today), in order to respond as positively as possible to their needs and to accompany their development. The vast majority of Centrale Paris’ students will in fact hold management or professional high-technology roles in companies, thus allowing the School to develop strong links with them.

¹ Data obtained from 228 students in their 1st. , 2nd. or 3rd. years

The Ecole Centrale Paris:

The Ecole Centrale Paris, founded in 1829, has since its creation trained high-level engineers, i.e. company directors, senior management, managers and experts in technology. The quality and commitment of its 2300 students (1570 student engineers, 130 Research Masters, 350 Specialised Masters, 250 doctoral students), 220 permanent teachers, 1000 part-time lecturers and its international, Centralian network are essential components of the School, together with the very high level demanded of its teaching and the excellence of its research.

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