



## **Erasmus Mundus: The Ecole Centrale Paris obtains 1.5 million Euros from the European Union**

(Châtenay-Malabry, September 3, 2010) – In the context of the 2009 – 2013 Erasmus Mundus program, the European Union this year awarded 1.5 million Euros to the Ecole Centrale Paris and eleven European, Japanese and Korean partners for their BEAM project. This project was the only one of 19 submissions to have been accepted by the EACEA (Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency). It is the second time in two years that the Ecole Centrale has been entrusted with the co-ordination of one of these major programs. The previous one, EM-TANDEM which is still running, concerns China and a consortium of 20 partners for a total amount of 4.6 million Euros and with more than 230 mobile participants.

The BEAM program (Build on Euro-Asian Mobility), which was put forward by the Ecole Centrale Paris in the final call for the annual Erasmus Mundus proposals, aims to bring Europe and the Far East closer together in the fields of advanced education, research and their management. It groups 12 advanced educational and research institutions, 6 European partners, 4 Japanese partners and 2 from Korea. Two research centers are associated with this project – the Center of Integrated Engineering for Sustainable Society (C.I.E.S.S.) and the Japanese Synchrotron Radiation Research Institute (J.A.S.R.I.) as well as T.I.M.E., the European network of universities of excellence of which the Ecole Centrale Paris is a founder member.

This initiative aims at contributing to building bridges between Europe and Asia, and to the promotion of economic, cultural and scientific exchanges. The BEAM program is mainly oriented towards research exchanges in the fields of engineering, mathematics, computer technology and natural sciences in order to meet the technological and societal challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It will allow cooperation between the research teams involved to be strengthened, particularly in the fields of nano-structured materials for nanotechnologies and energy, the use of synchrotron facilities for their characterization, and combustion in the aeronautical sector, mainly with Japan; it also allows for new approaches in managing logistical chains with Korea to give but a few examples. Furthermore, collaboration between the administrative teams will be increased in order to strengthen cooperation exchanges and pedagogical activities, the sharing of knowledge and academic recognition. In addition to this, the Ecole Centrale Paris is already very involved with Japan through regular scientific missions by researchers and teaching researchers, as well as the mobility of young scientists for post-doctoral visits.

The BEAM program will create a mobility plan for more than 80 people, doctoral students (57%), post-doctoral students (14%) and teaching researchers and others (14%) thanks to European Commission grants. Mobility is a key factor for sharing good practice and the development of long-term cooperation. Sharing the operational, research and managerial activities for this type of program contributes to the excellence of the partner institutions. Over 60% of this mobility will be European, the rest being divided into one third for Korean mobility and two-thirds for Japanese mobility.

Efficient coordination that adopts elements from the EM-TANDEM program will be implemented at the Ecole Centrale Paris and will organise the activities essential to the success of EM-BEAM, including managing the consortium, calls for candidatures, the selection process, execution of the mobility plan and financial monitoring.

*"We are delighted to have been chosen to run this Erasmus Mundus BEAM program which perfectly reflects our desire to enlarge our network of exchanges for research. The quality of our European partners and the adhesion of excellent Japanese and Korean institutions to this project certainly benefited us and confirms the growing importance of this type of mobility in important countries"* said Christopher Cripps, Dean of International Affairs at Centrale Paris.

**Coordinating institution:**

Ecole Centrale Paris (France)

**Partnership members:**

École Centrale de Nantes (France)

Imperial College (United Kingdom)

Technische Universität München (Germany)

Université Libre de Bruxelles (Belgium)

Universidad Politecnica de Madrid (Spain)

Keio University (Japan)

Okayama University (Japan)

Tokyo Institute of Technology (Japan)

Waseda University (Japan)

Hanyang University (South Korea)

Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (South Korea)

**Associate members:**

C.I.E.S. (Center of Integrated Engineering for Sustainable Society)

J.A.S.R.I. (Japanese Synchrotron Radiation Research Institute)

T.I.M.E. (Top Industrial Managers for Europe)

**The Erasmus Mundus program**

Erasmus Mundus 2009-2013 is the second part of the 2004-2008 program of the European Commission. It is divided into three activities:

Firstly: the development of common or double Masters and Doctorate degrees between European universities and universities in other countries.

Secondly: the development and implementation of mobility programs through consortia between European and other countries. It offers scholarships at the Bachelor, Master, Doctorate, Post-doctorate and Research/personnel levels.

Thirdly: the promotion of the European Space for Advanced Education.

Partnerships within the Erasmus Mundus framework allow academic cooperation and student and university exchanges to be improved, thus contributing to the socio-economic development of the non-European countries selected through the European Union's policy of external cooperation. Special attention is paid to under-privileged and vulnerable populations.

The 2-strand2 activity which includes the BEAM program will help to develop and improve student and personnel mobility through mutual enrichment, contribution to excellence and economic development based on knowledge and the recognition of qualifications and skills.

For more information about the BEAM program: [http://www.ecp.fr/em\\_beam](http://www.ecp.fr/em_beam)

For more information about Erasmus Mundus: <http://eacea.ec.europa.eu>

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