

Press release

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A new centre of excellence in Biology – Pharmacy – Chemistry for Paris-Sud University on the Plateau de Saclay

Paris-Sud University and the Platon Saclay project company, led by Bouygues Construction, has signed a public-private partnership contract for the design, construction, operation and maintenance of the future Biology – Pharmacy – Chemistry (BPC) Centre to be built on the Plateau de Saclay. This vast complex of approximately 85,000 m², one of the largest university construction sites in France, is a major scientific project for Paris-Sud University and the future Paris-Saclay University. Handover is scheduled for April 2022, following 12 months of development studies and 36 months of works. The design-build contract is worth €283 million.

A gateway to Paris-Saclay

Located north of the Le Moulon plateau, next to the future Orsay-Gif station on the Grand Paris Express, the centre will be the new gateway into the Le Moulon joint development zone and the Paris-Saclay campus. Consequently, it will be very prominent.

Sylvie Retailleau, President of Paris-Sud University, said: "Biology, pharmacy and chemistry have a common culture and share issues in common in relation to health. Collaborations between these three disciplines are natural. From a scientific standpoint, grouping them together seemed essential to us."

Pascal Minault, CEO of Bouygues Entreprises France-Europe, said: "This partnership contract testifies to the confidence we have been shown by Paris-Sud University. Working alongside recognised partners, starting with the architects BTuA and Bernard Tschumi, Baumschlager Eberle Architects, and Groupe-6, we have devised a project that is sober, functional and elegant which aims to make the Biology – Pharmacy – Chemistry Centre a centre of excellence in teaching and research."

A new facility for achieving excellence in research

The Biology – Pharmacy – Chemistry Centre will be installed on two strategic sites:

- The "Métro site", with monumental architecture designed by Bernard Tschumi (BTuA), will be the heart of the complex and the teaching facilities and Groupe-6 for the research laboratories, will extend over 74,000 m² (floor area). This will be home to Paris-Sud University's Pharmacy Faculty, which will transfer from Châtenay-Malabry, the Orsay Institute of Molecular Chemistry and Materials (ICMMO – Paris-Sud University/CNRS) and Masters programmes in Biology and Chemistry. In all, 3,300 students and 1,000 teachers, researchers and administrative personnel will work on this site.
- the "IDEEV site", which has 14,000 m² of floor area and houses the Institute for the Diversity, Ecology and Evolution of the Living World (IDEEV – Paris-Sud University/CNRS/INRA/AgroParisTech/IRD). Designed by Baumschlager Eberle Architects, this site will be used by 400 researchers, doctoral candidates and administrative personnel.

The centre, which will have HQE (High Environmental Quality) certification, will incorporate state-of-the-art research labs, teaching facilities (lecture theatres, seminar rooms, student labs), scientific greenhouses, insectarium and aquarium, social spaces, offices, technical areas, shared logistics zones and car parking.



About Paris-Sud University

Paris-Sud University is a major player in Paris-Saclay University (a community of universities and institutions).

A multidisciplinary establishment with a focus on science and healthcare, the University's excellence in research is reflected in numerous international awards, especially in mathematics (four Fields Medals) and physics (three Nobel Prizes). Paris-Sud University is one of the most prestigious research universities in Europe, and it is one of the highest ranked higher education institutions worldwide.

Paris-Sud University comprises 78 internationally recognized laboratories and offers 30 technology platforms. One of the characteristics of its educational approach is that research is an integral part of its curriculum, from undergraduate to doctoral level. It has a student population of 31,400, including approximately 5,000 from outside France, along with 4,300 teachers and researchers plus 3,100 engineers, technicians and administrative staff.

The university extends over five campuses and 570,000 m² of buildings to the south of Paris. It is currently undertaking a policy of development, renovation and maintenance of its real-estate assets; 260,000 m² of building projects, including 200,000 m² of new constructions, will be undertaken in the coming years. Paris-Sud University will also benefit from 62,000 m² of construction projects undertaken by the institution's partners, including 51,000 m² of new build.

About Platon Saclay

The Platon Saclay project company was formed to advance finance and ensure the design and construction of the Biology – Pharmacy – Chemistry Centre, and operate and maintain it for 29 years. The project company comprises subsidiaries of Bouygues Construction – Bouygues Bâtiment Grand Ouest (lead company), Bouygues Bâtiment Nord Est, Bouygues Bâtiment Centre Sud-Ouest and Bouygues Energies & Services FM – and the I.I.H.L. (InfraRed) investment fund.

Under the terms of the contract, Bouygues Bâtiment Grand Ouest (lead company), Bouygues Bâtiment Nord-Est, Bouygues Bâtiment Centre Sud-Ouest, Bouygues Energies & Services and a group of engineering companies will be responsible for the designing and building the centre. The engineering companies include three architecture firms (BTuA and Groupe-6 for the Métro site and Baumschlager Eberle Architects for the IDEEV site), two general-purpose engineering offices (WSP and CERIS), and six specialised consultant engineers (Etamine, Elix, Economie 80, Antéa Group, Convergence and Henssler) for the design.

Bouygues Energies & Services FM will be responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the buildings for a period of 25 years.

About Bouygues Construction

Bouygues Construction is a global player in construction, with operations in more than 80 countries. It designs, builds and operates projects in the sectors of building, infrastructure and industry. As a responsible and committed leader in sustainable construction, Bouygues Construction sees innovation as its primary source of added value: this is "shared innovation" that benefits its customers at the same time as improving its productivity and the working conditions of its 47,350 employees. In 2017 Bouygues Construction generated sales of €11.7 billion.

Press contacts

Paris-Sud University

Cécile Pérol – +33 1 6915 4199 – +33 6 5824 6844 – cecile.perol@u-psud.fr

Bouygues Construction

Jessica Swiderski – +33 1 3060 2805 – +33 7 6164 4160 – j.swiderski@bouygues-construction.com

Agathe Ducellier – +33 1 3060 2072 – +33 7 6307 7135 – a.ducellier@bouygues-construction.com