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A new experience in clustering teams of physicists: the "Triangle de la Physique" south of Paris

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The Triangle de la Physique is an Advanced Research Cluster in Physics, from basic to applied. Its ambition is to gather a group of laboratories, teams and researchers in Physics, concentrated on the geographic Palaiseau-Orsay-Saclay triangle, around specific themes, with a great structuring potential and beyond divisions due to their membership to various organizations. To construct this project through a collective approach, open but controlled, the initiative Triangle de la Physique actually herds scientists in the laboratories of Paris-Sud 11 University, CNRS, Ecole Polytechnique, CEA, ONERA, IOTA, ENSTA and SUPELEC. It is based on large experimental facilities (SOLEIL synchrotron, LLB neutron source, very high power lasers, advanced electron microscopy) as well as on technological and computing platforms recognized on a national and a European scales, which already are meeting points for the community.

The Triangle de la Physique represents a permanent staff of more than 1000 members, whose excellence is no longer to prove, since already recognized by numerous distinctions in France and abroad (among whom Albert Fert, Nobel laureate in 2007, and Alain Aspect, Wolf Prize 2010), and by their foothold in national and international major projects.

In order to improve the visibility and the attractiveness of this asset significantly on a world perspective, it offers to work out a strong and widely interdisciplinary partnership. It would like to give concrete expression to a worldwide leadership by its size, its excellence, its diversity and, the coherence of its set of themes, and by its ability to generate structuring projects beyond a mere association of already established skills.

It gathers the physicists who study the intermediate organization levels of matter, from the atom to the solid. They take part in research on a laboratory scale, but they also use the large facilities of the Triangle. Concentrating and coordinating the efforts in the fields of optics, dilute and condensed matter physics, complex systems, nanophysics and statistical physics, the cluster offers to complete and balance the entire continuum of support tools for Research and Innovation offered by the French program-law for Research.

The great diversity of skills and means gathered around one directing theme, Physics, is the guarantee of a profitable diffusion towards other connate disciplinary fields, life or universe sciences for instance. The Triangle de la Physique Advanced Cluster has now reached a state of maturity which allows it to welcome international collaborative projects.

(1) see <http://www.triangledelaphysique.fr>

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