Press release

High-tech clusters Minalogic and Optique Rhône-Alpes announce merger

Minalogic and Optique Rhône-Alpes, two high-tech clusters located in France’s Rhône-Alpes region, are formally merging their organizations after five years of successful cooperation. The merger will position the clusters to bolster their member services and other initiatives for an even greater impact on growth and innovation across the region’s optics and photonics industry.

Minalogic, a cluster for digital solutions leveraging micro and nanoelectronics and software, announced on April 2, 2015 its plans to merge with cluster Optique Rhône-Alpes (ORA), whose mission is to drive the growth of the optics and photonics industry in the Rhône-Alpes region.

Following the merger, the two clusters will operate under the Minalogic banner. Their respective employees will combine their know-how to support the development of optics and photonics industry stakeholders from business, higher education, and institutions from the public and private sectors. The Rhône-Alpes region is France’s second-leading hub for optics and photonics following Ile-de-France (Greater Paris). Minalogic has rounded out its existing technical divisions—micro and nanoelectronics and software—with a third technical division dedicated to optics and photonics, headed by David Vitale. And, in addition to the Minalogic campus in Grenoble, the new cluster will broaden its geographical scope with offices in Saint Etienne.

A logical next step

The merger is the logical next step in a multi-year partnership devoted to developing the Rhône-Alpes region’s photonics industry. Minalogic, since its inception in 2005, has continuously cultivated its relationship with ORA, founded in 1996. The merger will solidly anchor the two clusters’ regional initiatives for the long term while facilitating the emergence of new ideas and projects through an open innovation strategy that will be of particular interest to SMEs operating in the optics and photonics industry.

A win-win merger

Members of both clusters will benefit from the merger, first and foremost by gaining access to a much broader range of events and services.

And, by adding optics and photonics to its technology portfolio, Minalogic will generate even more synergies and provide electronics and software stakeholders with a unique inroads into new market applications for their technologies. ORA will bring a vibrant regional network and a strong track record of promotion and relationship-building to the merger. In exchange ORA will expand its capacity to generate new ideas, engineer collaborative R&D projects, and get innovative new products to market faster.

About Minalogic

The Minalogic cluster brings together the Rhône-Alpes region’s leading digital solutions innovators from the micro and nanoelectronics, software,—and now—optics and photonics industries. From networking with other innovators and building relationships with manufacturers to finding sources of financing, Minalogic’s network of specialized partners helps innovators of all sizes transform their ideas into marketable products. Minalogic has carved out a unique position in the Rhône-Alpes region, ensuring that regional stakeholders from higher education, research, and business align their innovation efforts and promoting the region’s know-how on the global stage.

Key figures:

- More than 300 members:
  - 270 businesses; 89% SMEs
  - 16 research centers and universities
  - 15 local governments
  - 16 economic development agencies and other organizations
  - 2 private investors

- 388 R&D projects have secured €755 million in government grants, for total R&D spending of €2 billion

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