



PRESS RELEASE

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## La Poste and Inria join forces to accelerate responsible digital innovation for the benefit of society

**La Poste, a leader in local services and digital trust, and Inria, the French National Institute for Computer Science, announce the signature of a partnership aimed at helping to enhance France's digital sovereignty. The goal is to accelerate innovation in trusted digital technologies and make them more environmentally friendly.**

**This partnership, that also involves the Fondation Inria, support Inria's research activities, while helping La Poste to innovate further in digital trust, artificial intelligence and eHealth. This partnership also includes supporting Inria's tech entrepreneurship programme and aiding the development of their IT engineers and researchers.**

### Helping to enhance digital sovereignty

The strategic partnership entered into by La Poste, Inria and the Fondation Inria is **based on common values and a shared ambition** to strengthen France's digital sovereignty.

La Poste and Inria are seeking to work together to develop trusted and responsible digital solutions as the digitisation of society continues apace.

Through this partnership, which will run for an initial period of 3 years, La Poste is keen to support French research into digital technology and science. Around twenty or so Inria teams will be given the opportunity to carry out research alongside experts from the La Poste group operating in these areas.

### A collaboration focused on digital trust

La Poste recently published its strategic plan "La Poste 2030 - committed for you", in which it identified digital technologies as one of their key areas for development, and are seeking to consolidate its role as a trusted digital third-party, in particular through its Docaposte subsidiary.

The partnership with Inria **will strengthen its capacity for innovation in digital trust services**, while reflecting a willingness on the part of the group to become more open to partnerships and to **operating within an ecosystem**.

### Three research and development topics

Three scientific topics have been identified for the partners to work together on:

- **Developing responsible uses of digital services**
  - The aim is to identify ways of reconciling the digital transformation of society and environmental protection through concepts such as the sustainability by design of digital services.
- **Building a trusted digital ecosystem** for businesses and citizens
  - Work will centre around data protection, cybersecurity and trust in algorithms (used for artificial intelligence) with a view to striking a balance between the "ethical" usage of anonymised data and privacy.
- **Easing health data usage to improve medicine care**
  - The focus will be on the conditions for using and processing health data while protecting patients' privacy.

## Supporting entrepreneurship and training

La Poste and Inria are keen to strengthen existing ties between research and entrepreneurship. Within the group's priority development sectors, La Poste will support Inria Startup Studio in its aim to launch 100 start-ups a year.

La Poste will also assist with the training of Inria engineers and researchers by offering jobs within the company. La Poste will be able to offer career opportunities to Inria experts looking to move into the corporate world.

Through the involvement of the Fondation Inria and its funding programmes for Inria initiatives (for research and innovation), this partnership is very much in keeping with the foundation's motto "Bring Social Purpose to the Digital World"

*"At La Poste, we are committed to digital trust, and through our new strategic plan "La Poste 2030 - Committed for you", are looking to support society in its digital transition. I am proud to launch this collaboration with Inria, a world-renowned centre for research into computer science with whom we share the same commitment for general interest and the same vision of helping to enhance France's digital sovereignty through ethical and responsible digital technologies. The work carried out within the context of this partnership will help to anticipate any future technological breakthroughs and will act as a catalyst for innovation in response to the expectations of society and our clients."* - **Philippe Wahl**, CEO of the La Poste group

*"The ability to control our digital destiny has become a necessity. This will involve mobilising an ecosystem of stakeholders who want to establish our digital sovereignty, in all its forms - for citizens, for businesses and for France within a European dynamic. I am delighted with this partnership with La Poste, who share the same values as Inria, the French National Institute for Computer Science. It was only logical for the Fondation Inria, whose motto is "to give meaning to digital", to be involved in this partnership in order to support research projects and entrepreneurial projects. With La Poste, we share the ambition to build a digital society centred around trust and innovation."* - **Bruno Sportisse**, Inria CEO and President of the Fondation Inria

### About Le Groupe La Poste:

La Poste is a state-owned public limited company, a subsidiary of Caisse des Dépôts and the French State. Le Groupe La Poste is divided into five business units: Services-Mail-Parcels, La Poste Network, Digital Services, GeoPost and La Banque Postale which, with its subsidiary CNP Assurances, is a European leader in banking and insurance as well as green finance.

La Poste has been carbon neutral since 2012 and delivers 17.9 billion items worldwide (letters, printed advertising media and parcels), 6 days a week. Committed to its regional coverage, the Group has 17,000 retail outlets (post offices, local postal agencies, La Poste Relais outlets) and 15,000 points of access to a postal service (PickUp points, business centres, lockers and parcel drive service).

In 2020, Le Groupe La Poste generated €31.2 billion in revenue (40% outside France) and had a headcount of almost 249,000, in 48 countries over 4 continents, of which 190,000 in France. Through its strategic plan "La Poste 2030, committed for you", the public company has set itself the goal of becoming the leading European platform for links and exchanges, providing digital, people-oriented, green and socially-responsible services for the benefit of its customers in their projects, and the transformation of society as a whole.

### About Inria

Inria is the French national research institute for digital science and technology. World-class research, technological innovation and entrepreneurial risk are its DNA. In 200 project teams, most of which are shared with major research universities, more than 3,500 researchers and engineers explore new paths, often in an interdisciplinary manner and in collaboration with industrial partners to meet ambitious challenges.

As a technological institute, Inria supports the diversity of innovation pathways: from open source software publishing to the creation of technological startups (Deeptech).

### About the Fondation Inria

Fondation Inria contributes to the development of Inria, France's National Institute for Computer Science, and supports research projects through the mobilisation of new resources. The foundation aims at tackling scientific challenges to solve major social issues. With companies, other foundations or individuals, the foundation co-creates emblematic programs with major social impacts. Along with its partners, the foundation supports initiatives for the common good: contributions towards the digital transformation of a sustainable, unified and citizen-oriented society.

Having undergone a facelift, Fondation Inria is being led by a new operational team in 2021 and has reaffirmed its raison d'être through an original patronage interface, bridging the gap between public research and the corporate sphere.

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