

THE MONTHLY LIST

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LIST ANNOUNCES NEW FINANCIAL INNOVATION CENTRE

The creation of the Finance Innovation Technology and Systems Centre (FITS) fills a significant gap in applied research and innovation for the Financial Services industry in Luxembourg and related ecosystems, including the ICT sector. The centre will mainly focus on 4 areas: Investment Management and Funds, Private Banking and Wealth Management, Risk and Finance & Accounting Competences and Regulatory Compliance and Legal Technologies.

Photo : Prof Dr. Jorge Sanz (2nd row, 8th from the left) with his FITS team

The Finance Sector is the biggest source of GDP for Luxembourg. In terms of value creation and international competitiveness, there are important and largely untapped areas where financial innovation will help consolidate and grow the industry in the country, while also helping to transform the corresponding segment of ICT providers to the Finance Sector.

In line with its mission to transfer innovation and accelerate economic impact for the industry, the Luxembourg Institute of Science and Technology is therefore pleased to announce the creation of the Finance Innovation Technology and Systems Centre (FITS).

Luxembourg's new FITS Centre comes to fill a significant gap in applied research and innovation for the Financial Services industry in Luxembourg and related ecosystems, including the ICT sector. The measure of success for FITS will be its impact and its ability to bridge a gap between research and industry actors. Its working approach is based on two critical business principles: Systemic interdisciplinarity and Industry segment focus.

Consequently, the new Centre has identified four select and interrelated domains as its main focus areas: Investment Management and Funds, Private Banking and Wealth Management, Risk and Finance & Accounting Competences and Regulatory Compliance and Legal Technologies.

FITS proposes to work in close collaboration with all the instrumental government actors including the Ministry of Higher Education and Research, the National Research Fund, the Ministry of Economy and the Ministry of Finance.

The FITS Centre will be led by Prof Dr. Jorge Sanz as its Scientific Director. Prof Sanz was invited to come to Luxembourg as a new landmark in the international expert's long academic and private industry career, which was first consolidated in Silicon Valley, U.S.A. and recently also in Singapore, Asia. The motivation for the relocation was due to a strong interest from Luxembourg to create a new avenue for applied research and innovation for local industries, and the need to apply the said professional and academic expertise for the growth of the country, specifically in Financial Services.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS



Scientific Excellence

LIST SIGNS COLLABORATION AGREEMENT WITH THE IBLA

LIST signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the « Institut fir Biologësch Landwirtschaft an Agrarkultur Luxemburg a.s.b.l. » (IBLA) for collaborative research in the area of organic agriculture. The five-year agreement foresees an exchange of staff, mutual access to laboratories and infrastructures, as well as collaborative publications, funding applications, projects and meetings.

LIST and the IBLA have collaborated in the past notably on the COBRA project, designed to help farmers develop new varieties of crops that are better adapted to organic conditions.

With this signing, LIST shows its commitment to improving quality of life in Luxembourg. Environmental and food security challenges are an integral part of the positive impact the Institute can have as a Research and Technology Organization (RTO). [Learn more on www.list.lu](http://www.list.lu)

International

IRANIAN DELEGATION VISITS LIST

An Iranian delegation visited LIST on 11 May, following a Luxembourg economic mission to Iran back in October 2016 with the participation of the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Economy, Etienne Schneider, accompanied by more than 40 companies from Luxembourg. The ICT Spring event provided an opportunity for a visit of LIST's showroom at the Belval campus by a delegation of 8 people, led by Mr Ahmadreza Alaei, Director General, Technology Office at the Vice Presidency for Iranian Science and Technology. At the outset, a first contact was made with intermediaries to discuss potential collaborations between LIST and Iranian organizations on topics of interest that will support and benefit both economies. [Learn more on www.list.lu](http://www.list.lu)



Environment

LIST LAUNCHES NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH TUNISIA

From 8 to 10 May 2017 a Tunisian Delegation visited LIST, with the aim of launching new collaborative projects based on a common research approach between the two countries. Another goal was to develop cooperation between Luxembourg and the countries of the Southern Mediterranean on environmental matters, with Tunisia as a priority in 2017. As a highlight, a public-private partnership was signed between LIST, Myriado Cleantech sàrl and the ISSTEG of Gabès on the subject of the solar desalination of drinking water. This collaboration will allow to optimize a new generation of water desalination systems. LIST therefore considers this a promising cooperation with Tunisia, whose impact should improve the quality of life for the benefit of local populations.

[Learn more on www.list.lu](http://www.list.lu)

Industry

CLEANTECH FORUM

For the first time, on 16 May 2017, Luxembourg took part in the CleanTech Forum Europe in Helsinki, Finland, an international conference gathering start-ups and growth companies, corporations, investors and advisors as well as incubators and clusters. LIST was part of the Luxembourg delegation at the event, teaming up with Apateq, Encevo Group, and Luxinnovation.

The event was a good opportunity for Luxembourg to position itself on the international map as an emerging cleantech hub. LIST researchers established promising contacts with companies in the fields of chemicals, renewable resources and public administrations, building on expertise in ecoinnovation and material science. First follow-up contacts show potential for promising new partnerships in the near future. [Learn more on www.list.lu](http://www.list.lu)



WHERE TOMORROW BEGINS

Located in the heart of Belval's Research & Innovation Campus, LIST can ideally connect its over 500 specialists in materials, environment and IT, including its more than 70 PhD students, through a broad range of joint projects, programmes and partnerships with virtually all of Luxembourg's other major research players. At Belval, the University of Luxembourg, LIH, LISER, Technoport, Luxinnovation and the Luxembourg National Research Fund are all literally within arm's reach.

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